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**YOUTH BANNER**

**TEEN ARTIST'S EYE ON A PRIZE IS BELOW THE COURT STREET BRIDGE**

YOUTH BANNER, PG 48



VANESSA GUERRA AND CARL WILLIAMS

# Two former local state representatives appointed to SVSU Board of Control

Saginaw, MI – Saginaw Valley State University is gaining two new Board of Control members with a history of public service. Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced the appointments of Vanessa Guerra and Carl Williams to the Board today.

Guerra and Williams each served six years in the Michigan House of Representatives, representing the city of Saginaw and surrounding communities. Guerra currently serves as the elected Saginaw County Clerk. Williams previously served on the Saginaw City Council.

“We are pleased to welcome Representatives

Guerra and Williams to our Board of Control,” said Donald Bachand, SVSU president. “Each of them are well-known in our community and they are proven public servants at the state and local level. They understand the vital role SVSU plays to advance our region and our state. I look forward to working with them on the important work of building the talent pipeline for our community.”

Guerra and Williams replace John Kunitzer and Dennis Durco, who completed their eight-year terms of service to the SVSU Board of Control.



**Latino social justice issue arrives in mid-Michigan**

LATINO BANNER, COVER



**Covid-aid funds remain absent from local agendas**

COMMUNITY, PG 14



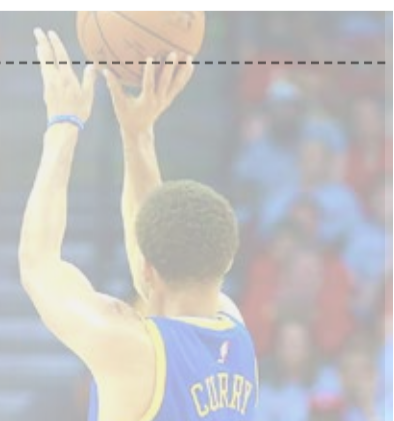
**Let Go and Let God: Women's Day in the Park!**

COMMUNITY, PG 20

FEATURED STORY

## ARE TOO MANY THREE-POINTERS BAD FOR THE GAME?

SPORTS, PG 46



**MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER**

The Michigan Banner was recently accepted into the 2021 Facebook Journalism Project Grant Program. I'm not one to pat myself on the back but the process was challenging and very competitive. We wanted to remain current, to continue meeting the needs of the communities we serve. To do so, it was necessary to enhance our skills, extend our reach and use cutting edge technology to achieve the level of growth and the goals (long and short term) set during annual vision and planning meetings. I am reminded of an old saying, 'If you don't happen to it – it will happen to you.' That simply means that we must be constantly expanding our reach while staying true to our mission. We must be alert - seeking opportunities but prepared to move when the right one comes along. Notice that I said, 'the right one'. We don't move with the tide – we stay focused and true to our purpose.



The Michigan Banner has been fortunate. As we celebrate our 19th anniversary in this business, we are mindful of the fact that many publications, some much larger and established, have not survived the ebb and flow of the industry. Understanding advanced technology comes easily to some while I must admit that my grandchildren have provided the occasional tutorial on how to use equipment and devices designed to make life simpler. Fortunately, serving at the helm of this awesome work makes even the most difficult aspects worth every minute of time spent learning a new skill or taking on a new challenge. I often say, 'I don't have to go to work, I get to go to work.' I don't know who to credit with that saying – I do know that it speaks to the work that we do each day to publish an edition of The Michigan Banner twice each month. Both Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt are attributed with having said, "Do what you can with what you have where you are." As with most businesses, we have done just that. We developed slowly and with limited resources. My greatest asset was a fearless pursuit in search of a quality publication that would meet the needs of Banner faithful and consistent readers. For almost two decades, we have done just that.

So, to those of us contemplating next steps, those with a dream to step out and bring that dream to fruition, remember that the time is now. Be fearless. Don't let it happen all around you – you make it happen! Obstacles can be overcome. If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. (Maya Angelou) You are the only one who can (and hopefully will) make a difference in the area of your passion. Just as there are other quality publications, there are others who are driven to move forward and even accomplish great things in your area of interest and expertise. Don't be discouraged – only you are in control of your destiny. Only you can accomplish that which is assigned to you. 'Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.' (Barack Obama) Somewhere there is someone in need of and waiting for your dream to become a reality. Go ahead – make it happen.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome Buckley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being significantly larger and more stylized.

Jerome Buckley  
Publisher, Michigan Banner

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**MISSION**

The Michigan Banner, Latino Banner and Youth Banner operates and serves as a print and online media venue committed to educating, informing and enlightening our readership regarding events and news that directly and indirectly affect the communities regionally and globally. Furthermore, to serve as a catalyst and a link for cultivating young adults as entrepreneurial and business leaders for the future.

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# HOW I OVERCAME



Friday, July 23, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M.



ALPHAMEDIA

## Inspirational Stories

**LIVESTREAM:** Women of Colors Facebook Page, WTLZ KISS 107.1 FM, WSGW 790 AM & 105 FM, THE MOOSE 94.5 FM, & WGER 106.3 FM



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Community Engagement  
WOC Secretary

# Latino Banner

LIDER EN LA  
DIVERSIDAD

VAMOS ADELANTE

## Latino social justice issue arrives in mid-Michigan

By MIKE THOMPSON

A debate over bringing teenage refugee children and adolescents from the Rio Grande border to mid-Michigan demonstrates that Latino social justice issues may arise at any time in any place, not only in big cities.

Alma is the location of one particular drama, a religious private college enclave near the exact geographic center of the state's Lower Peninsula.

The point of debate is a proposal to use a 36-bed vacant former nursing home to provide temporary shelter for orphaned boys, ages 12 to 17, who are detained at the border in flight from their Mexican and Central American homelands.

A typical stay is 45 days before they are connected with foster care or adoption, or in some cases reconnected with their families.

Mass protests have emerged among conservative town folk, with some of their more strident fears ranging from perceived threats of terrorism to gang violence to the spread of Third World diseases.

Bethany Christian Services, the applicant, is an 80-year-old inter-

**CONTINUES ON LB PG 3,  
SOCIAL JUSTICE**

## LATINO CONSERVATION WEEK

Disfrutando y Conservando Nuestra Tierra

COURTESY PHOTO

## National Park Foundation Celebrates a Decade of Preserving Latino History and Culture in National Parks

Washington, D.C. – In honor of Latino Conservation Week, hosted by the Hispanic Access Foundation and celebrated July 17 to 25, the National Park Foundation (NPF) announced it is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its Latino Heritage Fund throughout 2021. Established in 2011, and originally called the American Latino Heritage Fund, the fund's mission is to preserve Latino history and elevate Latinos' stories and contributions to the U.S.,

past and present, through national parks. Thanks to the generosity of NPF Board Directors Patty Arvielo and Mindy Burbano Stearns, NPF is increasing philanthropic support for the fund.

"Latino history is a vibrant part of

**CONTINUES ON LB PG 2, LATINO  
CONSERVATION WEEK**

LATINO BANNER SPONSORED BY GREAT LAKES BAY HEALTH CENTERS & TEAM ONE CREDIT UNION



## Continued from LB Cover, Latino Conservation Week

U.S. history. Latinos have made significant contributions to our country and the Foundation's Latino Heritage Fund helps ensure the National Park System honors this important community," said National Park Foundation President and CEO Will Shafroth. "Thanks to the leadership and vision of many generous donors, the National Park Foundation is increasing its support for national park programming that reflects our country's tapestry of diverse cultures and histories, including those from our Latino community."

Past and current Latino stories are present in the over 400 national parks across the country, some of which were specifically established to protect and interpret nationally significant places and stories associated with Latino heritage.

With the support of its donors, NPF works in collaboration with the National Park Service (NPS), the Department of the Interior (DOI), the Biden Administration, and other partners to preserve and share stories that commemorate Hispanic heritage in parks and communities across the country. This includes working with NPS to identify innovative ways to engage current and future park visitors, increase relevancy and access, and build a culture that values diverse ideas and embraces the meaningful participation of all.

"Our national parks reflect the diversity of the American experience," said National Park Foundation Board Director Patty Arvielo. "It is so important for all people to see themselves in the American story and feel welcome in these places that belong to all of us."

"Latino heritage is deeply rooted in national park landscapes and historical sites," said National Park Foundation Board Director Mindy Burbano Stearns. "These places are the common ground we share, made richer by better understanding the contributions made by so many generations of Latinos to our shared history and culture."

The NPF Latino Heritage Fund sponsored NPS' American Latinos and the Making of the United States: A Theme Study in 2013. The theme study features essays by nationally recognized scholars addressing the contributions and experiences of Latinos and provides a framework as the NPS continues to work with partners and com-

munities to identify, preserve, and interpret buildings, landscapes, and other sites that tell stories of Latinos in the United States. Due in part to the theme study's research, eleven Latino history sites have been designated as new National Historic Landmarks.

"The support from the NPF Latino Heritage Fund continues to expand the capacity of the NPS to engage in broader storytelling and diversify the visitor experience in our parks, rivers, trails, and heritage areas," said Shawn Bengé, Deputy Director of the National Park Service.

In addition to the theme study, NPF's Latino Heritage Fund has supported efforts including:

- Helping to establish César E. Chávez National Monument as a unit of the National Park System, which commemorates the home and final resting place of César E. Chávez. The site, located in California within an area known as Nuestra Señora Reina de La Paz (Our Lady Queen of Peace), also served as the former headquarters for the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), which Chávez co-founded with Dolores Huerta. In 1966, the NFWA merged with the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee to create the United Farm Workers of America.
- Supporting the NPS and Washington Trust for Historic Preservation's youth summit for Latino students and teachers. The summit engaged younger generations in historic preservation in their communities and equipped teachers and preservation organizations with the tools needed to motivate and engage Latino youth on stewardship of historic places and national parks.
- Partnering with NPS, Mission Heritage Partners, and American YouthWorks' Texas Conservation Corps to support four cultural landscape apprentice positions for local Hispanic and Latino young adults at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park in Texas. According to NPS, "cul-

tural landscapes reflect our multi-generational ties to the land, with patterns that repeat and change to remind us of the depth of our roots and the unique character of our present." As it applies to these apprenticeships, participants learn skills from NPS mentors through hands-on work in grounds preservation, maintenance, and landscape bed rehabilitation. Another key aspect of the work involves preserving the historic acequias, the Spanish word for irrigation canals.

As part of the increased support for the Latino Heritage Fund, NPF retained Noemi Lujan Perez to serve as the fund's project manager in a consultant capacity. She is a public affairs professional with experience managing media and stakeholder portfolios for Fortune 500s, nonprofits, and government agencies. Her experience includes developing signature Latino and African American partner programs for both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service.

Individuals, foundations, and companies can support NPF's Latino Heritage Fund efforts to preserve and share Latino history and culture through national parks by visiting the NPF website.



## Continued from LB Cover, social justice



COURTESY PHOTO

national group that addresses an array of children's hardships, especially those that result from poverty and oppression.

"A common myth is that these children are dangerous," said Krista Stewart, branch director of the nonprofit's East Lansing office, in a television interview. "They are fleeing violence, trafficking and poverty. They have experienced trauma that no human, much less a child, should endure."

Some of the Saginaw area's leading Hispanic and Mexican American activists

view certain aspects of the Alma opposition as racially biased. They are urging local residents to take notice and pay attention, even though citizens 40 miles to the east on highway M-46 may wield only scant influence.

During weeks to come, the rezoning proposal from Bethany Christian Services is scheduled to go through the Alma City Planning Commission for a recommendation to the Alma City Council. Meetings of both bodies are announced on the city's web site, [myalma.org](http://myalma.org), and open to public

attendance, regardless of anyone's hometown. They are recorded for YouTube viewing.

A sometimes-explosive July 12 session of the Planning Commission, attended by 400, may appear as possible fodder for a PBS-style documentary. Find it at the Alma city web site, [myalma.org](http://myalma.org), or view <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8xmxby-U64>.

Readers also may follow the story with simple Google searches, such as "Alma immigration."

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# + COMMUNITY



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## No minority-owned marijuana shops? No protests in Saginaw

By MIKE THOMPSON

In other communities, lack of ethnic minority ownership in the newly legal enterprises of marijuana has become a major issue.

Not in Saginaw. At least, not in the public sphere.

No City Council member or citizen, black or white or Latino, has pushed the topic. Neither has the NAACP nor any of the more youthful, more loosely organized civil rights advocate groups.

According to the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, a scant 3.4 percent of the state's new marijuana sales outlets are black-owned and 1.5 percent are Latino-owned. Saginaw's proportions for 17 dispensaries, set to open as soon as September, are 0 percent and 0 percent.

A common reason cited is lack of startup investment funds for lower-income minorities, the same as for many small-scale enterprises. The ironic difference, critics say, is that in this scenario the same blacks and browns who have suffered disproportion in War on Drugs imprisonment now are shut out of legalized enterprises for the same products.

Some larger communities, such as Detroit, have embarked on affirmative action-type provisions in an attempt to boost minority ownership.

One clue to public opinion in Saginaw comes from a Facebook survey, conducted by City Councilwoman Monique Lamar Sylvia, on local marijuana marts that are set to begin opening in the fall. Responses indicate levels of concern not only with ownership, but with race-based geography. Some samples:

- "Lower the cost of licenses (\$4,000) so that some of these guys on the streets have a chance to build legitimate business opportunities for themselves."
- "Other races are profiting now in our neighborhoods for what so many black people have been jailed for, for an excess amount of years."
- "They want us to buy weed, but not provide more job training or put a viable grocery store on the East Side."
- "It's not on the city to maintain businesses on the East Side. That's on us, the consumers, to spend our money with our own. We take our money to the white folks and that's not the city's

fault."

- "I hope and pray (some shops) are black-owned."
- "Ask them to hire some of us to work in our own neighborhoods."
- "We need positive things in our community. Drugs have already consumed our community. Say no to drugs. Put a Walmart on East Genesee."
- "Tell THEM to put one in their OWN neighborhood. PERIOD. Put it on the West Side."

Another irony exists. When businesses decline to locate on the East Side, anything from grocery stores to clothing shops to hardwares, they are cited for a redlining-type of discrimination. But marijuana marts are accused of dumping their products on the East Side. In fact, many of the proprietors are choosing the outer West Side for the same reason as traditional enterprises. They perceive lack of paying customers on the East Side.

In a 2019 Gallup Poll, 12 percent of Americans described themselves as cannabis regular or social consumers. The breakdown was 14 percent among whites, 9 percent among blacks.

## + COMMUNITY



## Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum Supports Michigan Sculptors with Regional Biennial Juried Sculpture Exhibition

Saginaw, MI – The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum invites you to celebrate some of Michigan’s best sculptors and congratulate the winning artists at the Opening Event for the “2021 Regional Biennial Juried Sculpture Exhibition”.

Stephanie James, Curator and Collection Educator for the Mott-Warsh Collection in Flint, MI, juried the exhibition and selected the merit award winners from 211 artworks submitted by 87 artists from the state of Michigan and Northern Indiana. “We are so grateful to Juror Stephanie James for her time, dedication, and expertise in narrowing down the number of artworks to be included from 211 to the select 43 works in the final exhibition – a truly difficult task given the outstanding submissions we received this year,” states Director, Megan McAdow. The exhibition will be on display now through Saturday, October 2.

In 2008 the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum at Saginaw Valley State University held its first “Regional Biennial Juried Sculpture Exhibition.” Although there are many venues that host juried ex-

hibitions, this one is unique because it is entirely devoted to three-dimensional artworks. and was initiated to support artists working in sculpture within 200 miles of Saginaw, Michigan.

The exhibition, which over the years has displayed the work of some of Michigan and Northern Indiana’s finest sculptors, has provided the Great Lakes Bay Region with the quality artwork usually seen in large metropolitan areas. Sculptures are representational, abstract and non-representational created in a wide variety of media and styles. The artists themselves represent a range of unique careers and backgrounds. Overall, the exhibition boasts a unique variety of sculptural forms.

“The exhibition was to be held last year, but due to the pandemic, we postponed it to this year. It’s important that the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum support living artists.” states Director, Megan McAdow. “We are excited to hold the exhibition again in both in-person and online formats with a complimentary Virtual Exhibition and additional programming for all ages. The online exhibition format

allows the Museum to host artwork, recorded artist statements, educational programs, and information indefinitely for the public to enjoy.”

The exhibition juror, Stephanie James, is a curator of modern and contemporary art with a focus on art of the African Diaspora. She holds an MA in art history from Wayne State University and a BFA in drawing, along with teaching certification, from Eastern Michigan University. She is the Curator and Collection Educator for the Mott-Warsh Collection—one of the largest privately owned collections of African American art in the United States. Prior to her work with the Mott-Warsh Collection, she worked at the Detroit Institute of Arts for nearly 16 years, serving as assistant curator of the General Motors Center for African American Art (2002-2009) and in various appointments in the museum’s education department (1993-2002). Additionally, she has contracted with Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of African American History and Culture as a member of their “Save Our African American Treasures” team of curators and conservators. Ms. James has organized numerous exhibitions, most recently “The Essential Self: Meditations on the Politics of Identity” at the Detroit Artists Market (2015). She is a frequent participant in educational programming on the arts and has authored several essays on contemporary American artists.

“What a pleasure it was to serve as juror for the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum’s ‘2021 Regional Biennial Juried Sculpture Exhibition’ and see the work being produced by some of our region’s most talented artists,” states juror, Stephanie James. “It was difficult to narrow down my selections for this show. I commend all the artists, first for the act of creating a work of art,

and secondly for sharing it with the community at large. I applaud the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum for providing a forum for this exchange to take place.”

Additional educational and public programming will be announced in the coming weeks and include virtual studio visits and artist talks with winning sculptors. Make and Take Saturdays will return at the end of July.

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## + COMMUNITY



# Covid-aid funds remain absent from local agendas

By MIKE THOMPSON

Saginaw city government remains in line for an historic \$52 million in federal anti-poverty funds, in the name of covid virus relief, but public discussion of how to spend and invest the oncoming money has barely started.

In fact, the main point of the current discussion is to discuss when the discussion should begin. Public officials say they wish to wisely wait for more specific guidelines from Washington, while several activists insist that the time to begin planning already is overdue. Initial timelines will call for them to begin expenditures within two years and conclude within three.

Scenarios are the same with the Saginaw Board of Education, \$65 million, and Saginaw County government, \$37 million. The sums by far are higher beyond the largest 1960s War on Poverty grants, even when adjusted to inflation. Suburbs and outlying small towns also will reap smaller sums, because they are closer to middle-income.

One of the outspoken citizens, Jeffrey Bulls, summed up the activists' side at the Council's July 12 session.

"Why are we waiting on this communication?" he asked. "Let's get to the conversation step. Stop being afraid of it."

## Caution or a freeze-up?

Most council members, along with their school board peers, have said they

are showing caution not out of fear, but because they wish to avoid stirring false hopes prior to the grant rules becoming clear cut.

Bulls responded: "You don't have to make promises to start the conversation. You don't even have to say anything (to begin seeking residents' views)."

Council members have answered that constituents always are free to speak to them, as Bulls himself has done, but they have yet to establish any specific public hearings. City Hall's official one-hour public access video on covid-aid details basically repeats that the details are not final yet.

The school board's only action, so far, has been a unanimous resolution in late May asking the City Council and the County Board of Commissioners to join in setting a three-way priority for youth programs and facilities.

County Board members have conducted no public discussions on covid aid heading into their August break, which is a yearly tradition even though they receive annual five-figure salaries, unlike Council and School Board members, for similar types of duties.

At The Banner, we attempted to contact Congressman Dan Kildee for his suggestions on steps that local governing units may take to prepare for the influx of federal funds. Beginning on July 8, Kildee's office telephones in both D.C. and Flint accepted our tape-recorded messages. An aide called back on July 13, but a response

was not offered by the July 15 morning deadline to prepare our publishing this report online. An overview of the veteran representative's outlook will remain a goal for the Aug. 1 online edition.

Bulls has maintained that other communities have gotten started, inviting leaders to Google-check for "Detroit ARPA plan," for just one example. In the document, Detroit Mayor Michael Duggan proposes about half of the Motor City's share for restoring covid-caused budget cuts and employee layoffs, and half for new program ideas from local agencies.

Saginaw council members have responded that Duggan is an elected big-city mayor with a soapbox, whereas Saginaw's form of government takes a board-of-directors approach instead of granting such power to any individual.

Meanwhile, city school trustees learned that they actually have saved \$2 million, instead of losing funds and requiring aid, for the simple reason that covid-19 shut down the buildings for most of 2020-21. Still, they are in line for the \$65 million sum that exceeds their annual operating budget.

## Simple ideas

With such an absence of covid-aid activity, The Banner offers a set of hopefully neutral suggestions for concerned citizens, not taking sides on the timing:

- Make a one, two, three list of your priorities for a windfall of one-time funds. The main focus must be anti-poverty.
- Join or form neighborhood associations or PTAs to prepare for this coming autumn, when a more intense focus seems almost inevitable.
- Consider how ideas would continue with ongoing funds, especially for staffing, when the covid-aid money expires at some point in the middle of this decade.

(Any feedback here? Feel free to email [mwtsaginaw@yahoo.com](mailto:mwtsaginaw@yahoo.com).)

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## + COMMUNITY

# Council hears both sides (some public, some private) in water shutoff debate

By MIKE THOMPSON

With the ongoing dispute over water shutoffs, combined with \$52 million in federal covid aid in the wings, the public focus on City Hall is the brightest in several years.

Other post-millennium occasions when the lights were bright were the 2004 midnight 5-4 vote to fire City Manager Deborah Kimble, and then the uproar that followed the 2012 police slaying of Milton Hall, who was a homeless middle-aged man with mental health challenges.

Current council members generally are not familiar with such political heat as they are facing this summer. The senior office-holder, Annie Boensch, started in 2011. City Manager Tim Morales took the helm in 2014.

An official temporary hold on shutoffs ended July 15, although Morales expresses hopes that none will occur during days to come, now that staff has formed emergency-aid links with the United Way, the Saginaw County CAC and First Ward Community Center.

The comparatively young council is not directly answering critics, but instead offered defenses in general terms during a July 12 session.

"As a retired city employee, there are a lot of things that citizens don't understand," said Councilman Reggie Williams, who was a city officer prior to becoming Buena Vista's police chief. "Staff is doing the very best they can with the resources that they have."

Councilwoman Annie Boensch went farther, noting that Saginaw has avoided the state takeovers that afflicted Detroit and Flint during the past decade. Rather than facing criticism, city leaders should be subject to praise, she said.

She added, "It is a thankless job. Sometimes we will come to a resolution that may not fit everyone's needs."

Councilman George Copeland, one of

three newcomers since last November's election, took both sides. He joined the compliments for staff, and then added, "But I can't reject the community voices that I've heard during this time."

Michael Balls, mayor pro-tem (a.k.a. vice-mayor), was more precise. He said that even during pandemic tough times, "the city didn't do anything wrong" by issuing shutoffs when the state covid moratorium ended, but he added, "We did have a solution come out of it."

## No shutoffs, none

Balls referred to the team effort with the social agencies, but the protesters still are protesting. They insist that a shutoff ban should become permanent, a fact of anti-poverty living that should be as basic as a soup kitchen meal or a homeless shelter bed. No starving, no sleeping on street grates, and no shutoffs.

In their latest action, they obtained a July 12 letter of support topped by logos from the Michigan American Civil Liberties Union and 13 environmental and civil rights groups, most prominently the Sierra Club. The five-page missive outlines reasons why Saginaw's shutoffs have violated an array of federal standards, ranging from the Fourteenth Amendment to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

The letter (see pg 18) demands an end to shutoffs and other enforcement actions, such as liens on property.

However, the only hand-written signature is from the Bonsitu Kituba, the state ACLU's deputy legal director.

Council members aren't willing to go that far. They also hear from constituents who oppose ending shutoffs, and some who even object to bill-paying aid from the agencies that receive federal monies. A number of the enforcement backers describe themselves as low-wage workers who also are in hardship but who find steps to pay their bills, with assistance only

in emergencies.

## Manager cites local law

Morales and his legal staff declined to respond directly to the ACLU-led challenge. Instead, they released the texts of local ordinances that state:

"No free water service shall be furnished to any persons, firm, or corporation, public or private, or to any public agency or instrumentality.

"Before any premises may be served with water or sewage disposal services, the person contracting shall:

"(A) Be in compliance with all ordinances and regulations of the city;

"(B) Apply for water and sewage disposal services and agree to pay for those services; and

"(C) Deposit with the Finance Director a reasonable amount of money as determined by the Director of Finance to guarantee payment for any indebtedness arising out of said servicing of the premises. Provided, that no deposit shall be required for service to a single-family residence from a person who has had city water or sewage disposal service previously for a period of two years and has at all times paid for all such services promptly, nor shall a deposit be required if the Director of Finance finds that the applicant has a satisfactory credit rating. In no case where a deposit is required shall the deposit be less than \$150. No interest shall be paid on deposits. Said deposit will be credited to the final bill upon termination of service."

The ordinance language is not part of the 1936 City Charter, and so it hypothetically could be amended by a City Council vote without requiring a referendum of the people.

Council meetings have resumed in-person at City Hall, ending more than a year of covid-caused "zoom" sessions. The 36-year history of cable access live telecasts (Charter Spectrum Channel 191) continues. The Saginaw Board of Education and the County Board of Commissioners both have the capacity to do the same, but members through the years have declined.

The council's next session is at 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 26.



+ COMMUNITY

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courtesy toward  
all people*

*(Titus 3:2)*



By **PASTOR RODRICK A. SMITH**  
ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST  
CHURCH

Every human being is created in the image and likeness of our Creator God. For this reason Christian believers should treat everyone with love, respect, and kindness. We often say that respect must be earned, but it is our responsibility to flesh out these Christian virtues toward all people. We treat people the way we want to be treated even when they don't reciprocate. Remember, Jesus interceded on behalf of His executioners. When He was reviled He didn't revile in return. We should also guard our tongues when speaking of others. We will ruin our own reputations if we seek to ruin the reputation of others. I often say that attempted homicide will lead to suicide. Don't ever try to crush or destroy anyone for any reason, because you end up doing it to yourself. We must show kindness to all people, not only to one another. We have to ask ourselves, "How do my actions affect those outside the household of faith. Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

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## + COMMUNITY

# Excerpts from ACLU letter in protest of Saginaw water shutoffs

Saginaw, MI – "The ACLU of Michigan joins a coalition of advocates writing to you at the behest of Saginaw residents to express strong concern about city officials' decision to pursue water shutoffs in the City of Saginaw. As you are aware, on June 15, 2021 city officials decided to resume water shutoffs for families that have unpaid water bills. These include 750 families at risk for water shutoffs and 250 families that were almost immediately without water.

"Though the ACLU of Michigan is not legal counsel for Saginaw's residents, we are nevertheless obligated to point out that, given Saginaw's racial and economic circumstances, these shutoff practices likely violate the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act, the Fair Housing Act, the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and various provisions of international law.

"As a practical matter, disconnecting water access in a home during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic creates imminent health risks, exacerbates housing instability, and could threaten parents' rights to keep their children in their homes. Ultimately, mass water shutoffs create a public health emergency that requires state intervention pursuant to MCL 333.2251; and MCL 333.2253.

"Shutting off water in the homes of city residents is discretionary. The city does not have a legal obligation to pursue collection using that method. A more effective and more humane approach involves the adoption of a plan to make water affordable for all residents. Instead of shutting off water for 250 families, it was, and remains possible to, with the assistance of experts, institute practices and policies that index the cost of water to income, thereby ensuring a continuing flow of both water and revenue.

"A good first step in that direction is a permanent moratorium on water shutoffs, and we urge that you impose one forthwith. The residents of the city of Saginaw and the coalition of advocates also urge the city to do the following:



"1. End all water shutoffs in the City of Saginaw, and provide free reconnections for all disconnected residents, as well as impose a permanent water shutoff moratorium.

"2. Discontinue citations for municipal civil violations, or fees of any kind, to Saginaw residents for matters related to their water utility status.

"3. Cessation of use of tax liens as a means of collection and for removal of Saginaw residents because of their water utility status.

"4. Commence a City Council investigation of repeated efforts of city staff to deny due process concerning water shutoffs, evictions, municipal civil infractions, etc.

"The City of Saginaw is at the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic in Saginaw County. We have grave concerns about the lack of notice provided to the approximately 250 families whose water services you shut off in June. The conditions that led to the statewide moratorium on shutoffs because of non-payment during the pandemic have not changed. These arrearages have accumulated over the course of the pandemic. It is impractical to expect complete payment on the past due water bills immediately after the moratorium ends.

"In addition to the emotional toll, the financial burden of health care costs, the loss of livelihoods, and stable housing, remain as threats to many families. Public health experts and our state government have underscored the importance of access to clean water to promote handwashing as a public health necessity to protect against the spread of the virus.

"Furthermore, Saginaw's deprivation of water increases the risk of individuals to contracting the COVID-19 virus and thus violates their fundamental right to bodily integrity, a right recognized by Michigan state courts in the post-Flint water crisis litigation. As municipalities move towards reopening the state, a just and equitable recovery is essential. Shutting off water from some of the communities that have already been hard hit by the global pandemic and economic instability surely offends this very principle. It is dangerous and a violation of both U.S. and international human rights law.

"Water shutoffs disproportionately impact Saginaw's Black and low-income residents. Saginaw's Black residents make up 43.5% of the city's population and 35% of Saginaw residents live below the poverty line. It is apparent that those most impacted come from these communities. The City's choice to shut off water and place liens on homes and/or issue civil infractions will deprive Black homeowners of housing. Such systemic deprivation of housing will have a disparate impact on African Americans and could potentially violate the Fair Housing Act.

"We recognize the city's need to maintain the water infrastructure and the finances to operate the system. However, it is imperative that city officials recognize that there are alternatives to addressing their needs that do not involve threatening the health and safety of Saginaw's residents. Chief among them, is the availability of government funding. The city should be able to redirect those funds and use them to pay back the arrearages without the need to cut off the water source from their residents.

"With this letter we are providing you with an opportunity to voluntarily and immediately end water shutoffs and threats of citations for civil infractions. Further we provide you with the opportunity to instead apply federal recovery funds to delinquent accounts. However, if we see no evidence of these actions within the next ten days we will be left with no alternative to pursuit of needed relief by other means."

## BOOK REVIEW

# She could have been editor of 'The Crisis'

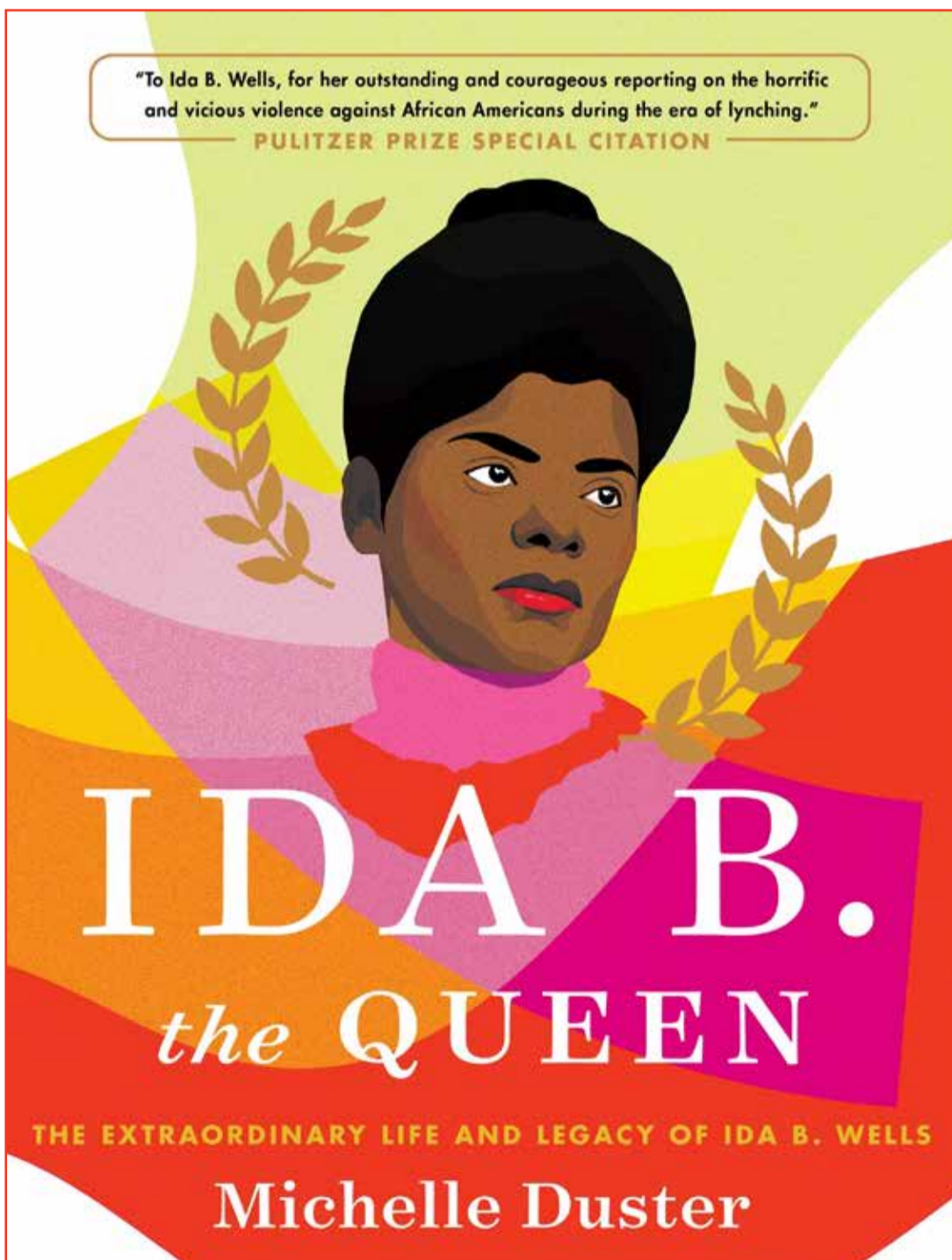
By MIKE THOMPSON

July 16 would be the 159th birthday for Ida B. Wells, best known as a pioneering journalist who courageously reported on lynchings, after a triple-slaying in her Memphis neighborhood.

She helped organize the NAACP and would have cherished an appointment to become editor of Crisis magazine, but the privilege went to W.E.B. DuBois, even though Ida was older with vastly



IDA B. WELLS



more journalism experience.

We learned this from "Ida B. the Queen," which I'm just now slowly and stupidly realizing is a word- and name-play on Queen Bee, authored by her great-granddaughter, Michelle Duster.

It's written on a high-school level as though intended as a textbook, with brief accounts of other civil rights leaders, from the historical well-known (DuBois, King, Parks) to some lesser lights (T. Thomas Fortune, Oscar DePriest), to some of today's female pioneers (Stacey Abrams, Lucy McBath).

Can you name the founders of Black Lives Matter? The three women are Patrisse Cullers, Opal Tometi and Alicia Garza. How about the lady who did the most cool thing and scaled a 30-foot pole to remove South Carolina's Confederate flag in the wake of the horrific Charleston church mass murder? Bree Newsome, six summers ago.

Plus the water-color portraits of these heroes, and others, are fantastic. Credit goes to artist Monica Ahanonu.

So yes, I would recommend this book for a young student during the six weeks of summer reading that remain, even though it seems poorly organized in sections and the Ida stories are not as chronological as they should be.

One question for Michelle Duster: Why does she deploy the strategy of capitalizing Black while keeping white lower case? Yes, I get it, and it doesn't make me feel offended or even aggrieved. But for example (page 52) a reference to "young boys, both Black and white" playing marbles, seems out of place, at least in a school textbook.

Anyways, "Ida B. the Queen" is available at Hoyt, or by order at any library.

## + COMMUNITY

# Let Go and Let God: Women's Day in the Park!

By RUMI WILSON

Nine years ago, Jacqueline Jones had just celebrated her fortieth birthday. The big 4-0. Jackie Jones had reached a personal milestone and she looked forward to better things in her own life and for her family. It was a potential turning point for a young woman working two jobs and raising three sons. She had survived and now she wanted to thrive.

But early the next morning Jackie awakened to a knock on her door. Her good friend said "get dressed and come with me, Jackie. We need to go take a ride. Have you heard anything about your nephew Freddie?" she asked Ms. Jones. When they arrived at the north Saginaw address of her nephew, Jackie Jones saw the police cars and the yellow crime scene police tape.



MARCUS DEVON BUCKLEY, JR.      FREDERICK RICO-JONES HARVEY

In a still unsolved double homicide, Jackie's twenty-year-old son Marcus Devon Buckley, Jr. and his cousin Frederick Rico-Jones Harvey, age nineteen, had both been shot multiple times sitting inside a car parked in Freddie's driveway on North Second Street, three blocks from the Dow Event Center. Like many murders involving young victims in Saginaw, the story made the local news and then disappeared from the headlines.

The grief Jacqueline Jones experienced did not disappear. A parent losing their child is bad enough. But, losing your child to a brutal murder with never an explanation why it happened nor who did it is an overwhelmingly traumatic experience. It plunged Jackie into a despair she had never known. It made her question her faith. No amount of comforting support from friends and relatives could take away her pain.

"I worked hard, two jobs. I raised my sons. They were not in trouble. I was a good person. I went to church, I prayed, I praised God. But how could He allow this to happen to me?" Jackie asked.

Day after day she came home from work crying. She had two other young sons. Jackie Jones found herself on her knees one night, crying on her bedroom floor inconsolably, paralyzed by sorrow and emptiness. Jackie had reached a bottom. Shaking from her sobs, she felt a bright light shine in the darkened room and then she heard a voice saying "If you don't give this to me, you're not going to make it."

"When I heard my own voice say 'I want to live' I realized I was going to have to let go," Ms. Jones explains. "I said I refuse to live in sadness. I will not let life's difficulties destroy me. I felt that despite what happened there is still something good out there for me."

This August 7, 2021 at the Buena Vista Community Park, 1940 South Outer Drive, Ms. Jones will sponsor her second annual "Let Go and Let God" celebration for women. It will be a day designed for adult women from all backgrounds to join together and have fun. The day-long free event, running from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm will feature Yoga, crafts, sport, games, playful activities, conversations, music and dancing, food vendors and motivational speakers. There will be a praise and worship component, scheduled for 10:15 am.

Women speakers, starting at 11:15 am, will provide motivational and inspirational messages. There will even be a female DJ spinning the sounds. Jackie wants women to be able to cry, laugh, joke, skip rope, do things they might not have done in a long time and just "let go". "I just want the ladies to have a good time, cut loose, feel free, experience joy. They deserve the best," she said.

Following up on a successful women's program last year at the Nazarene Church in Saginaw, Jackie is more determined than ever to empower her fellow females. She says, "Let's encourage each other to be great.



JACQUELINE JONES, LET GO AND LET GOD WOMEN'S DAY IN THE PARK ORGANIZER AND SPONSOR

Let's come together, helping, supporting and inspiring each other. The struggles we experience are there so we can help each other get to the next level. If women make the world go round, women need each other to do it, because it is a big job."

Anna Robles, an experienced Yoga teacher who will conduct a morning Yoga class for women attendees at the "Let Go and Let God" festival admires Jackie Jones' vision and positive grit. Ms. Robles commented, "Jackie Jones is doing it! She is standing up strong for the sisters and her transformation shows the potential we women represent, especially if we work together. I mean, look at her, what she had to overcome. But Jackie is putting herself out there, organizing, marching, uplifting people. Last fall (March, 2020) she organized a fantastic women's day at the church. Last summer she organized the Saginaw Moms Against Gun Violence march and ride (August, 2020). I am just happy to contribute and participate. Jackie is a beautiful inspirational human being."

When she was young, growing up in foster care, experiencing abuse, Jackie Jones had a dream about what she would do one day and who she would be. She would be a force for change. She would be someone who helps others, stands up for justice,

**CONTINUES ON PG 21, WOMEN'S DAY**

## Continued from pg 20, women's day

makes a difference in society. Ironically, now, Ms. Jones sees her son's tragic death as the pivotal point that led to a realization within herself. She is motivated by the struggles of women, African Americans, voting rights, economic inequality and the need to change the local community and country.

"I wish we could come together over our children's deaths at the hands of other young people. I could have just let everything destroy me. If I lived a life of sadness, it would be like my son Marcus's life didn't matter. But I am going to continue my life as a triumph of happiness over pain. A pain I would never wish upon anyone, even the mothers of the young men who killed my son. I admit, at first, I was so mad at God when Marcus died. I found out I believe in a God strong enough to handle my anger, and my grief."

John Micsak, a retired clinician and the founder and director of the National Institute for Resiliency and Wellness, is well acquainted with trauma. Mr. Micsak travels the state and nation delivering workshops to carry his well-researched and documented message about how trauma impacts communities, schools, institutions, families. Mr. Micsak attended dozens of meetings across the area over the last decade with leaders in the community because he's most interested in creating solutions. John believes Saginaw is obviously not alone in confronting issues of violence, but he focuses on the personal relational story of how individuals and institutions can change trauma into pathways of transformation. Change is possible. It requires a new paradigm, though.

"In the aftermath of violence, many of the trauma symptoms that may arise, such as being on edge, constantly on guard, are actually part of your body's adaptive response to a highly stressful event," Mr. Micsak explained. "In a nutshell, the four steps for trauma recovery include: Safety, love and connection; Resourcing support; Processing stories and traumatic themes; Building self-regulation. I think this program Jackie Jones created is tremendous and amazing. We need to build up our relationships and nurture our village."

Five months after the July, 2012 murders, three mothers including Jackie went before the Saginaw City Council in December to demand action on their behalf and

many other dissatisfied families victimized by violence. City council representatives promised help is on the way to curb the killings in Saginaw.

The well-maintained house where Marcus and Freddie died sits there, quietly, in the echoes of I-675 traffic. The highway was designed to cut right through the heart of the city of Saginaw. Today the house stands alone on the block. Second Street's name has been changed to honor the late Reverend Roosevelt Austin, Pastor Emeritus of Zion Missionary Baptist Church. Uncut grass grows into small fields on vacant lots, even on two little empty playgrounds up the street. The nearby Civitan Center sits empty, too.

Jackie Jones will periodically drive up to the house and sit by herself, allowing her emotions to cascade through her body until the pain stops cutting into her heart and she finds it holds no power to paralyze her soul. She cannot stop the thoughts trafficking her mind, but Jackie can manage them now. It still affects Ms. Jones deeply that her son Marcus was by himself when he died but she feels the power of his memory and spirit infusing her activism. Ms. Jones feels she is honoring Marcus with her involvement and commitment in the community. Marcus Buckley had a son, Bryson Buckley born after he died. Jackie thinks about her grandson, too, as she keeps her focus on the future.

In a town numbed by the tolls of violence, in neighborhoods where the fourth of July can erupt on random nights, in a place where the endless number of mothers who lost their sons and daughters to guns is sickening, Jackie Jones finds solace in her social engagement, her life restored by her refusal to be unhappy. "I hope through all of my struggle I am giving to others what I want for myself: Joy, peace, laughter, fun and happiness. I know I am not the only one grieving, not the only woman out there going through pain." Jackie Jones knows her positivity and energetic pursuit of freedom and happiness can help empower others. "So many good things in life are possible but we must take action, and I am really hoping all the sisters gathering at the Buena Vista Park together are going to generate more of the love I am feeling. Because that is what this is all about. Overcoming the sadness with joy."

John Micsak thinks the upcoming "Let Go and Let God" program checks off many

boxes for healing trauma. "Physical movement, prayer, yoga, dancing, jumping rope, exercising, singing, playing, laughing, hugging; we need our village, we need to strengthen personal relationships and create a sense of safety. Human beings require physical contact, we need relationships, we need to move the physical and neural pathways in our body to heal."

According to Mr. Micsak's nine domains of integration to overcome trauma, the program Jackie Jones is sponsoring for Saturday, August 7, 2021 covers quite a few of his Trauma Recovery Experience and Enrichment (Tree). Nutrition, Body and energy working, Safety, sensory integration, empowerment, social interactions, spirituality will all be addressed during the day of activity Jackie Jones designed. When she realized that she had incorporated so many elements for effectively handling traumatic experiences, Jackie responded enthusiastically.

Jackie's son Garrian is enrolled in the Early College program at Saginaw Valley State University. Her youngest son, Jayden is attending Heritage High School. Ms. Jones is past the half century mark but feels younger because she is focused on being the agent of change that she dreamed about being when she was a kid. She likes Chapter Three from the Book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible.

"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

A time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted; a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance..."

Saturday, August 7 this year, Ms. Jones hopes, will be a time for laughing, dancing, healing, planting and building up. She personally invites every adult woman, eighteen years or older, to come to the Buena Vista Community Center and experience a day to share happiness with other women.

In Ecclesiastes 3 the Bible says, "He hath made everything beautiful in his time." It will be beautiful, so Jackie Jones believes, and her sponsored women's day in August, 2021, will be a day for women to truly relax, "Let Go and Let God" provide restoration of soul and spirit. She knows very well how much it is needed.

### Saginaw Promise Golf Outing



THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021\*  
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- Hole Sponsorship

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Sponsors: Please email your company logo to DSanchez@SaginawPromise.org.  
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I would like to <b>Donate a Prize</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Player #3	_____
Total Amount <b>ENCLOSED</b>	\$ _____	Player #4	_____

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**For Questions**, please contact Deborah Sanchez at (989) 755-0545 or email DSanchez@SaginawPromise.org

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## + COMMUNITY

## IN MY HUMBLE OPINION

# Racism will destroy the world



By **KEN H. SIMMONS, II**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR, KENZO  
PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The murder of George Floyd, an unarmed African American man, by then police officer Derek Chauvin in Minneapolis, Minnesota last year, May 25 sparked protests across the United States and around the world. From Auckland, New Zealand to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to Berlin, Germany, to Cape Town, South Africa thousands of protestors took to the streets to show solidarity with demonstrators in the US over the killing of George Floyd. Most of the signs people carried read, "Black Lives Matter", "No Justice, No Peace", and "Racism is the Real Virus". It is not an exaggeration to say that racism and white supremacy harm all of us, because in addition to robbing us of our humanity, racism is also killing the planet we all share. It will destroy the world unless it is eradicated.

Virginia Commonwealth University Professor of Anthropology and author of *Race in North America: Origin and Evolution of a Worldview*, Audrey Smedley, defines racism, in Britannica as, "also [being] called racialism, the belief that humans may be divided into separate and exclusive biological entities called, 'races'; that there is a casual link between inherited physical traits or personality, intellect, morality, and other cultural and behavioral features; and that some races are innately superior

to others." Professor Smedley explains that racism is more than just personal. When the term is applied to political, economic, educational, or legal institutions and systems that engage in or perpetuate discrimination on the basis of race or otherwise reinforce racial inequalities in wealth and income, education, health care, civil rights, and other areas it is institutional, structural, or systemic racism.

A central characteristic of racism is power. By power I mean, social, economic, political, and/or cultural power in relation to domination/submission between social groups. There are many dimensions of racism, like cultural, socio-psychological, socio-political, and economic and it has been studied on each level. In its broad sense, racism also comprises anti-Semitism and modern forms of ethnocentrism and xenophobia.

The notion of biological race has been recognized as a cultural invention and entirely without scientific basis since the late 20th century. After World War II, where Hitler and Nazi Germany killed six million Jews and more than two hundred thousand Gypsies in gas chambers, UNESCO tasked authorities in the social sciences to examine the concept of race. One of the main findings in their "Statement By Experts on Race Problems" published on 20 July 1950 was, "For all practical social purposes 'race' is not so much a biological phenomenon as a social myth. The myth of 'race' has created an enormous amount of human and social damage. In recent years it has taken a heavy toll in human lives and caused untold suffering. It still prevents the normal development of millions of human beings and deprives civilization of the effective co-operation of productive minds. The biological differences between ethnic groups should be disregarded from the standpoint of social acceptance and social action. The unity of mankind from both the biological and social viewpoints is the main thing." Dropping the term "race" and replacing it with a more neutral term, "ethnic group" was advocated in the UNESCO statement, which meant science was abandoning the concept of race. Racism, however, continued to exist.

Contemporary forms of racism are of-

ten referred to as modern racism or new racism. Superiority of one's own culture and nation are no longer emphasized openly. Racist practices are now legitimized on the basis of so-called "principal otherness". Presumed biological/genetical differences are also replaced by differences between cultures or nations, which are represented as homogenous entities. "Race" is coded as culture or ethnicity.

Climate change is threatening the whole world, but you cannot have climate change without sacrifice zones, and you cannot sacrifice zones without disposable people, and you cannot have disposable people without racism. "Sacrifice zones are often 'fenceline communities' of low-income and people of color, or 'hot spots' of chemical pollution where residents live immediately adjacent to heavily polluted industries or military bases", according to an article by the NCBI that reviewed the book, "Sacrifice Zones: The Front Lines of Toxic Chemical Exposure in the United States".

A well-known example of a sacrifice zone is an area in Louisiana along the Mississippi River between New Orleans and Baton Rouge nicknamed, Cancer Alley because of its concentration of dangerous petrochemical facilities. One community in Cancer Alley, which has since been given the new nickname of "Death Alley" by affected residents because so many Black people have died, has a risk of cancer 50 times higher than the national average, the highest in the country. Another example is the Navajo Nation where the wells and groundwater were poisoned by uranium mines and the air was poisoned for decades by the coal plants. Or consider the South Side of Chicago which was a dumping ground of petroleum coke, a fossil fuel byproduct, for years and where residents are still struggling against pollution-related diseases. Then of course, there is the drinking water crises of Flint, Michigan as yet another example of environmental injustice and a sacrifice zone.

Systemic racism plays a huge part in the geography of sacrifice zones. Polluting

**CONTINUES ON PG 25, RACISM**



**+ COMMUNITY**

## Continued from pg 24, racism

plants are more likely to be built in areas where people of color live. According to a recent article published by The Climate Reality Project entitled, "Let's Talk about Sacrifice Zones", new studies show, "that industries responsible for 75 percent of air pollution hurt communities of color more." Today's environmental crises and racism are part of the same story of dehumanization. The richest people need those sacrifice zones and the racism that justifies them to continue, or they will have nowhere to put their trash and pollution. They need for white supremacy to remain invisible so they can continue to plunder our planet.

If climate change and environmental injustice are the result of a society that values some lives and not others, then no one is safe from pollution until all of us are safe. Polluted air does not stop at the county line and carbon pollution does not respect national borders. We cannot protect our shared global climate as long as we keep allowing the polluters to get away with sacrificing Black and brown commu-

nities.

Modern means of communication have played such an important role in the development of globalization, and those same means contribute to the ongoing reproduction of the phenomenon of racism on a global scale. With the internet and social media, the racist discourse penetrates remote corners of the world and favors tendencies towards ethnic conflict. That is why the knowledge and understanding of racism and the movement against racism cannot stay behind.

There are many incredible local activists from sacrifice zones that have used their personal experiences to increase awareness about this critical issue and advocate for our leaders to act. A few groups worth mentioning are Black Millennials for Flint in Michigan, RISE St. James in Louisiana, and CIDA Inc. (Community In-Power and Development Association) in Texas, and we need more people from all communities, not just the affected ones, to join the effort in stopping this environmental and human injustice.

Because "race" is linked to physical differences among people, and features like dark skin color have been seen as markers of low status, some experts think that racism may be difficult to eradicate. Minds cannot be changed by laws, but beliefs about human differences can and do change with time, as do many cultural elements. God is love and love is truly the higher authority that governs us. The only hope for humanity rests in understanding that our very survival is dependent on being able to move beyond the artificial notion of different races and unite as one human race.

At the end of the day, it comes down to putting people over the profits of industries that pollute our environment. Enough is enough! Countless lives and the health of generations have been sacrificed for far too long. Petrochemical plants and other polluters that continue to harm our communities and our planet need to be cleaned up and either re-engineered for green operations or shut down altogether.

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## + COMMUNITY



COURTESY PHOTO

## Bridgeport Charter Township seeks Community Development Fellow

### Individual will spearhead township-wide projects in Bridgeport Charter Township through 15-month position

Saginaw, MI – Bridgeport Charter Township is seeking applicants for the CEDAM Community Development Fellowship, a 15-month paid position that will help expand organizational capacity and take on a variety of development projects in Bridgeport Charter Township. The fellow will work full-time beginning October 2021.

Bridgeport Charter Township was one of 10 Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) selected by the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM) and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to host fellows for 2021-22. The fellow will take on various projects that aid in community economic development, ultimately helping promote equity and improve quality of life for those who live or work in Bridgeport Charter Township. Some potential projects include a Township-wide Capital Im-

provement Plan, a community re-branding and marketing strategy including updates to the Township's website, various zoning text amendments, and development of a comprehensive code enforcement and blight removal strategy.

"The CEDAM Fellowship is a great opportunity for individuals to gain professional experience in the community development sector, and for host communities to take on additional projects," says Rachel Diskin, director of capacity building at CEDAM. "Through this program, we are able to help Michigan expand the range of what's possible and, at the end of the day, address critical needs to make their community stronger."

"We believe that hosting this Fellow will be an economically transformative experience for our Township, and will position us for future redevelopment and growth that aligns with the best practices

of the Redevelopment Ready Communities program and our Master Plan's vision" says Adrianna Jordan, Township Manager. "We are honored to be selected, and look forward to fostering collaborative partnerships with MEDC, CEDAM, and the other nine cohort communities".

In addition to a salary and benefits, the Community Development Fellowship also offers training, professional development and networking opportunities for fellows. Many CEDAM fellows go on to work in government, policy and the nonprofit industry. Past fellow duties have included assessing public and private land for viability as housing, creating a marketing plan, drafting an economic development strategy and more.

The deadline to apply for the fellowship is July 26. To learn more about the position and how to apply, visit [cedamichigan.org/fellowship](http://cedamichigan.org/fellowship).

"My wife and I are both 80 now. I've been in this bakery since I was 6 years old.

We have 5 generations working here now. My daughter, my son, my daughter-in-law, kids... My grandfather helped get it started with my father, who sold the business to me. Now that I'm there, my children and grandchildren work with me too. I've had aunts and uncles, in-laws and cousins, all sorts of relatives working here. It's truly a family business.

When you have a small business like that, everyone does everything. I go in early in the morning to work. Others come in later to run the shop and decorate cookies and cakes. Things change over the years, but we still make everything from scratch.

Years ago, people would come in for cinnamon rolls and coffee cakes. You didn't get a lot of fancy orders then. That part has really changed. Now the younger generations want things cream-filled and jelly-filled, and all kinds of fancy treats.

Cookies and fry cakes are our best seller. I make a few different batches of homemade cookies that I don't think anyone else around here makes: walnut crunch and Turkish macaroons. We also make homemade, handmade bread.

We're of German and Scottish descent, and we still use all of our original recipes. We've had those recipes in the family and in the bakery for generations.

The best thing about owning a bakery is the people. The people who work with you, the people who run businesses next to you and the people who come into the shop. We've had some customers for 40 or 50 years. Now they bring their children and grandchildren in, and they remember coming into our first location on Hamilton Street. When someone tells you how good your treats are after all these years—that's the good stuff."

- **Chuck Kemerer, Hamilton Home Bakery**



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Detroit  
Barbershop  
Challenge!**

Launched in 2015, Ford Motor Company's Men of Courage (MOC) is a national grassroots program designed to build communities by advancing the narrative of black men through storytelling and community programs. The Ford Men of Courage Detroit Barbershop Challenge invites all state certified barbershop owners ages 18 and up to submit an application to be a part of the barbershop challenge.

Up to three Metro Detroit Barbershops will be selected as challenge finalists and will compete for a grant of \$10,000. An additional \$5,000 grant may be available to implement an innovative community project.

Visit [FGB.life](http://FGB.life) for more information and to enter!

**Applications Due by August 1, 2021**

**MEN OF COURAGE**

Ford  
FORD MOTOR COMPANY FUND

## + COMMUNITY

# Bean Bunny elevator set for wrecking ball

Saginaw, MI – A final step to remove the Bean Bunny grain elevator to clear west river-front land for Saginaw's new combined high school received the Saginaw City Council's approval on July 12.

Members rejected a proposal that would have protected the structure by creating a "single entity historic district" for the site on North Niagara, adjacent to the Saginaw Arts and Sciences, SASA, where the combined Saginaw High and Arthur Hill are slated for construction during the next two years.

Removal of the grain elevator would make way for a stadium to the south, mainly for football but also for other sports and large events, such as graduation ceremonies.

The Bean Bunny sign already has been placed in storage and will be moved to an undetermined site under the oversight of a Saginaw Community Foundation volunteer committee.

Councilman Bill Ostash pushed to also keep the building, but he was absent on vacation on July 12 when his peers on the governing body rejected the idea without comment.

Voters last November passed a \$100 million bond issue for an overhaul of facilities.



THE BEAN SIGN & ELEVATOR (1741 N NIAGARA ST, SAGINAW, MI)

## The COVID-19 vaccine will save lives.

Kim was Gwendolyn's best friend. Kim caught COVID and passed away the day before her birthday. So Gwendolyn got the vaccine to honor her friend and to prevent others from losing their loved ones. She strongly recommends that everyone, especially in the city of Detroit, gets their shot. Let's join together to help save lives and get beyond this pandemic.

The vaccines have been tested for safety and are trusted by doctors.

Find your vaccine at [Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine](https://Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine).  
Text your zip code to **438829** or call **888-535-6136** and press 1.



WHY DID I GET VACCINATED?

**“BECAUSE MY BEST FRIEND COULDN'T. SHE CAUGHT COVID AND PASSED AWAY.”**

GWENDOLYN C. OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN

## + COMMUNITY

# The political dinosaur; the moderate



By **JIMMY E. GREENE**

CEO & PRESIDENT, ABC MICHIGAN

I'm old enough to remember when we had a lot of Republican Susan Collins and a lot of Democrat Joe Manchin's; when elected officials were independent minded though Party aligned. Why should that concern us? Simple, The middle is being squeezed out more than ever as the extreme left and right continue to battle for the soul of American Public Policy. We've entered a period of zero sum game and that pendulum swings back and forth with almost every day election cycle. And I mean across the country. In small town america and big sprawling cities.

This means that important policy issues surrounding education, infrastructure, health, taxes and immigration all sitting on cinder blocks and temporary fixes predicated on who wins since the idea of both sides of these important issues never being moderated. That's dangerous and divisive and in large part just one more reason for the toxicity in today's politics. The other side doesn't just lose; they lose BIG!

And this dance starts all over again from the moment one election is over. There's no time for brevity and calculation because the losing side only embeds itself deeper in its mission; to win at all costs and the devil (the other side) be damned. The moderate further drowned out or even worse; cornered into silence which only makes that far left and right louder.

But understand this; both sides of this divisive politic are the few; not the many. That's why you, the 60% of the voting population need to raise up. The civility of American politics now rests in the hands of outspoken moderates who are unafraid to challenge the willful distortions of the extremist right and left. As diverse as this country is now real winning public policy is when we all feel we've won something and gave up a little to get there; that formula works from the other side as well.



OJIBWAY ISLAND

## Alternatives to Ojibway vehicle ban fall by the roadside

By **MIKE THOMPSON**

Ojibway Island will reopen to the public within a few weeks but the circle drive will remain barricaded to motor vehicles.

At their July 12 meeting, City Council members affirmed their June 28 vote to spend up to \$11,000, mostly for a parking lot at the entrance but also for roadway barricades. New security cameras already are in place.

Repeated temporary park shutdowns have occurred during recent years, with city officials pointing to vehicular misconduct that mainly has involved motorists on grassy areas, spinning or speeding near groups that include elders and children. Foes of the closures have argued that a handful of violators should not be allowed to spoil the fun for everyone.

The latest scenario took place during warm days in early April.

Scores of residents have protested on social media, but only one spoke on July 12. And Alonda Silvia, daughter of Councilwoman Monique Lamar Silvia, did not focus on complaining. Instead, she offered a list of alternatives:

- Set curfews.
- Charge motorists a fee.
- Employ "park patrol" officers.
- Install guard rails along the pavement.

Members did not discuss the ideas, although Councilwoman Silvia said she had thought the June 28 vote only was to authorize \$11,000 toward solutions, but not toward a specific plan. Other members praised City Manager Tim Morales and his staff for addressing difficult decisions.

Another issue not discussed was how elder or physically challenged park patrons will be able to make their way to grassy areas where family and friends would gather, as far as a half-mile distant from parking.

The plan indicates that the motor vehicle barricades will be portable, able to be temporarily removed when families receive special permits for events such as reunions. Details remain to be made final.

# + HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

## Ascension St. Mary's Welcomes CMU Health Residency Program to their Riverfront Building

Saginaw, MI – Ascension St. Mary's is pleased to welcome Central Michigan University (CMU) Health and their internal medicine residency program to Ascension St. Mary's Riverfront building at 1015 S. Washington Avenue in Saginaw. Beginning July 19, 2021, CMU Health internal medicine and infectious disease patients will be seen in a new and larger office area on the third floor of Ascension St. Mary's Riverfront building. The care site is newly renovated to improve patient comfort and includes a spacious waiting area, 14 exam rooms, an onsite laboratory and access to other medical specialties. The last day for patient care at the current CMU Health facility, at 1000 Houghton Street in Saginaw, will be Friday, July 16.

"Ascension St. Mary's has been a part of what is now CMU Health and its graduate medical education programs for more than 50 years," says Dr. Stephanie Duggan, President and CEO, Ascension Michigan Northern Ministries. "Our clinical collaboration continues with the 2020 signing of a 25-year commitment with CMU and Cov-

enant for medical education in the Northern Michigan region. The relocation of CMU Health's internal medicine residency program and infectious disease practice to Ascension St. Mary's Riverfront building will further our respective missions of enhancing access to patient-centered, compassionate care."

The internal medicine practice at CMU Health is a patient-centered medical home and has some of the region's foremost specialists in adult medicine and the treatment and prevention of complex diseases and illnesses. CMU Health internal medicine residents and faculty physicians provide care for adult patients, 18 years of age and older. Providers focus on disease prevention and health management and treatment of conditions, including diabetes and its complications, gastrointestinal conditions (constipation, diarrhea, abdominal complaints), heart disease, high blood pressure, lung disease, non-obstetric needs of pregnant patients, preventive health care, primary care of patients with HIV and Hepatitis C, screening and pre-

vention of cancers, sports medicine and travel medicine and immunizations.

"The expansion of the CMU Health footprint, made possible by Ascension St. Mary's, allows us to continue the mission of improving the health of our community through education," said Dr. Samuel Shaheen, Executive Director, CMU Medical Education Partners. "Saginaw is becoming an even more important healthcare destination, fostered by the partnership between CMU College of Medicine, Ascension St. Mary's and Covenant Healthcare."

Ascension St. Mary's Riverfront is also home to other specialty care offices including cardiology (Michigan Cardiovascular Institute), pulmonology & critical care, primary care, bariatric services, diabetes education, cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation and outpatient laboratory draw center.

The CMU Health internal medicine office is accepting new patients. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the office at (989) 746-7500.

# Governor Whitmer proclaims July as People of Color Mental Health Awareness Month

Saginaw, MI – The COVID-19 pandemic has renewed the focus on minority health improvements that address systemic racism, discrimination and social, economic and environmental determinants. As part of this effort, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is proclaiming July 2021 as People of Color Mental Health Awareness Month.

"As we recognize People of Color Mental Health Awareness Month this July, we recommit ourselves to understand the challenges of access and availability associated with mental health in minority communities and work together to expand options, reduce stigma and tackle bias," said Governor Whitmer. "COVID-19 exposed and exacerbated so many underlying issues and deeply impacted communities of color and lower-income Michiganders. As we emerge from the pandemic, we must

work together to improve the health and well-being of communities hit hardest by understanding the contributing inequities that led to health disparities."

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, racial and ethnic minority groups in the U.S. are less likely to have access to mental health services and more likely to use emergency departments which can result in receiving lower quality mental healthcare.

"The disparities we've seen during COVID-19 highlights the need to focus even more on the health needs of black, indigenous and people of color," said Dr. Jo-neigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. "Without an intentional and fo-

cused effort to eliminate health disparities and inequities, the burden of poor health on these populations will continue to grow. The establishment of this month encourages organizations in Michigan to assess the impact of policies and procedures on advancing health equity and improving health outcomes for minority populations."

The impact of the stigma and implicit bias surrounding mental health in minority communities is present and affects the health and well-being of minority populations in our state. Eliminating barriers for professional counseling services in minority-serving schools, colleges, mental health agencies, community agencies, hospitals and other care delivery settings is crucial in addressing the need for improvement.

**"I WOULDN'T  
WORK  
ANYWHERE  
ELSE."**

**Rosalind Williams**  
*Registered Nurse*

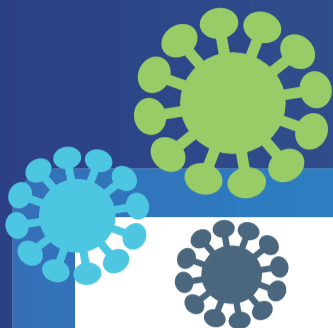


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www.GreatLakesBayHealthCenters.org

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers has touched more than **118,000 LIVES** during the COVID-19 crisis – in patient care and community outreach with testing and vaccines.

**55,884**  
COVID-19 TESTS  
ADMINISTERED  
IN 2020-2021 (AS OF JUNE 3, 2021)

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers (GLBHC) began offering community COVID-19 testing in March 2020 outside centers in Saginaw, and expanded to Bay City and Bad Axe. During the summer and fall, we partnered with churches and other community partners to bring testing to neighborhoods with “popup” events. We shifted testing to drive-thru access and do not require a doctor’s note or symptoms. Staff supported this effort on every level, including making calls to share test results. GLBHC added free Influenza community clinics through the fall of 2020. Volunteers have supported testing and vaccines.

**15,091**  
COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES\*  
ADMINISTERED  
IN 2021 (AS OF JUNE 3, 2021)

The Moderna vaccine was first made available to GLBHC staff in January 2021. Through the winter, staff worked with local health departments to administer vaccines to school professionals. The centers started receiving direct shipments of vaccines in March 2021, and began offering appointments to patients. GLBHC also began planning pop-up events at churches and other locations to access hard-to-reach populations. By April, the vaccine team had set up drive-thru vaccine clinics in Saginaw and Bay City and weekly clinics at the UAW Hall in Saginaw. Soon the public could access the vaccines without an appointment. Outreach continues into the summer, with young adults and teens becoming a focus.

*\*individuals each receive two doses*

**TOTAL GLBHC PATIENTS SERVED IN 2020:**



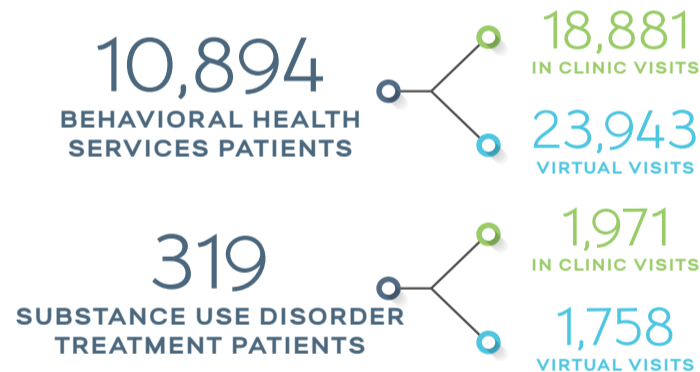
**50,270 PATIENTS**  
RECEIVING MEDICAL, DENTAL, BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH CARE AND OTHER VISITS

The COVID-19 shutdowns required centers to limit in-person visits in March-May 2020, but we never closed. Within two weeks, GLBHC had telehealth visits operational to stay in touch with patients. Before 2020, there were no virtual visits offered.



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

COVID increased stress and demand for behavioral health services in 2020. Staff reached out to schools and saw increased referrals for children and teens.



**16,953** PATIENTS 12 & OLDER  
**8,730** SCREENED FOR DEPRESSION  
of these patients who screened positive for depression and had a follow-up plan documented

**DENTAL CARE**

GLBHC dental centers were some of the only dental clinics open during quarantine to emergency care for patients experiencing pain or infection.



**CHRONIC HEALTH MONITORING = BETTER OUTCOMES**

During quarantine, GLBHC used grant funds to provide at-home monitoring kits to patients with COVID symptoms. The kits included blood pressure monitors and pulse oximeters to track oxygen levels. Telehealth visits were a lifeline for care management nurses to keep in touch with patients with chronic health conditions. Pharmacy staff made medication deliveries. A new Respiratory Clinic allowed staff to safely care for patients with COVID symptoms in person.





## + HEALTH



COURTESY PHOTO

## Michigan experiencing increase in Legionnaires' disease

Lansing, MI – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is coordinating with local health departments across the state to investigate a recent increase in reports of Legionnaires' disease.

Between July 1 and July 14, 107 cases of Legionnaires' disease have been reported in 25 counties. While increases in cases are often related to environmental factors, including heat and rainfall, this represents a 569% increase from referrals from the same period in 2020 (16 cases) and a 161% increase from referrals from the same period in 2019 (41 cases).

Confirmed cases include 19 in Wayne County, 17 in Oakland County and 17 in the City of Detroit and 15 in Macomb County.

Legionella bacteria causes two forms of legionellosis respiratory infections. Legionnaires' disease is an infection with symptoms that include fever, cough and pneumonia. A milder form of legionellosis, Pontiac fever, is an influenza-like illness without pneumonia that resolves on its own.

MDHHS and local health departments are working to inform healthcare providers of the increase in cases and share information regarding testing and treatment. While legionellosis cases are most common in the summer and early fall when warming, stagnant waters present the best environment for bacterial growth in water systems, this increase is higher than expected for Michigan for this time of year. MDHHS is requesting that providers keep this in mind with patients that present for care with pneumonia and existing risk factors for this infection. To date, no common sources of infection have been identified.

"Recent weather trends including rain, flooding and warmer weather may be playing a role in the rise of reported legionellosis cases this summer," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MDHHS chief medical executive and chief deputy director for health. "We want everyone to be aware of Legionnaire's disease, especially if they may be at higher risk for illness and we ask that healthcare providers remain vigilant, and test and treat appropriately."

As many buildings are currently re-opening after extended COVID-19 closures or periods of limited use, this may also create an environment for potential amplification and transmission of Legionella bacteria. Legionella bacteria are found naturally in freshwater lakes and streams but can also be found in man-made water systems. Potable water systems, cooling towers, whirlpool spas and decorative fountains offer common environments for bacterial growth and transmission if they are not cleaned and maintained properly. Warm water, stagnation and low disinfectant levels are conditions that support growth in these water systems.

Transmission to people occurs when mist or vapor containing the bacteria is inhaled. Legionnaires' disease does not spread person to person. Risk factors for exposure to Legionella bacteria include:

- Recent travel with an overnight stay.
- Recent stay in a healthcare facility.
- Exposure to hot tubs.
- Exposure to settings where the plumbing has had recent repairs or maintenance work.

Most healthy individuals do not become infected after exposure to Legionella. Individuals at a higher risk of getting sick include the following:

- People over age 50.
- Current or former smokers.
- People with chronic lung disease.
- People with weakened immune systems from diseases, such as cancer, diabetes or liver or kidney failure.
- People who take immunosuppressant drugs.

Individuals with any concerns about Legionnaires' disease or exposure to the Legionella bacteria should talk to their healthcare provider. MDHHS and local health departments will continue to monitor cases and provide updates to the public. More information on Legionella and Legionnaires' disease can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website.

## + EDUCATION

# Choosing the right college



By **CRAIG DOUGLAS**  
RETIRED EDUCATOR

As students mature, looking ahead at college is an exciting challenge. Urging students to look ahead early in high school (even as early as middle school) is preferable than waiting until the senior year.

Having enough time for research and reflection is an important ingredient for students looking at college.

To be clear, when I say “college” I really am referring to education or training that is “post-high school” or “post-secondary.” Schooling that includes but is not limited to four-year experiences. There are SO MANY great options for kids today, making research even more valuable.

What to consider when choosing the right college includes the following factors:

### 1) What is it you want to study?

Back in the day, this was not a big deal. I remember having friends who took pride in choosing, “undecided” as their course of study. College was relatively inexpensive, and kids would go five, six, or more years to college.

Not true today!

Now students need to be focused and have a clearer idea of a course of study due

to the time and cost of attending college. What you want to study should factor into where you want to go.

For example, SVSU has a tremendous reputation for teacher education; for a student wanting to become an elementary or secondary teacher in traditional subject areas, SVSU is a great option.

But if you want to be an agriculture teacher, that is not an option at SVSU because agriculture is so specialized. You need to go to school that has farms and programs related to crops, animals, and other areas of farming. Options in agriculture are found at MSU.

Just one example of what I am saying, what you want to study should factor into where you want to go.

We are fortunate in our region to have strong colleges with terrific courses of study available.

### 2) What is the cost to attend?

Like I said, this used to be a relatively small factor. Not so today as college costs have risen over the past two decades. For public institutions, costs reflect less support from state government. The adage has been, “they can raise tuition.” While technically true, it has resulted in tuition rates that become important factors in selecting schools.

In addition to tuition, costs of books and room & board are factors as well.

To offset these costs, what options are there for scholarships and work study? These do vary from one school to another and for certain career pathways within the college.

These and other factors should be researched and listed out as students look at where to attend.

### 3) Make college visits

The feeling one gets on campus cannot be ignored or minimized.

Personally, I love being on campus at CMU where I attended as an undergraduate; also, same at MSU where I got my PhD and at SVSU where I was privileged to serve as Dean. SVSU was recently voted #1 campus in Michigan, and that is pretty significant!



COURTESY PHOTO

The feelings of confidence, support, and safety are important ingredients for a successful college experience.

One cannot get that feeling remotely; instead, it is more of a “feet-on-the-ground” experience found from an in-person college visit.

By visiting several campuses, comparisons can be made in everything from student parking to campus dining to dorm life. I mentioned safety earlier, and visiting the campus can gain insight into how safe students are on campus.

### 4) Other factors

The ones I have mentioned are the tip-of-the-iceberg. There are many, many other factors that go into the decision-making process. I would encourage students and parents to list them out together, prioritizing them from most to least important.

Taking an unemotional and methodical approach helps minimize the chances for making a regrettable mistake. The cost of transferring can be significant, so making the first choice the right one has a significant advantage.

References:

<https://www.livecareer.com/resources/careers/planning/choosing-a-college>

<https://www.svsu.edu/>



*“I would love for you to come to our downtown office to visit with me about becoming a Cardinal! I am happy to assist you with how to complete your admission application, explore academic programs, submit the FASFA, and discuss many other services at SVSU that bring you closer to your educational dreams.”*

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## + EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

## Gov. Whitmer signs bill to put Michigan students and educators first

Macomb, MI — Governor Gretchen Whitmer today joined students, educators, and support staff at Ojibwa Elementary School in Macomb County to sign House Bill 4421, which appropriates \$4.4 billion in federal COVID relief funding to support schools across the state and help students, teachers, and schools recover from the pandemic. The historic education funding represents the bipartisan work completed in late June to ensure that Michigan's K-12 education system takes advantage of federal funding to make unprecedented investments in our schools.

"We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make the type of investment in our schools that will put Michigan students and educators first as they head into the next school year," said Governor Whitmer. "Our actions today prove that Republicans and Democrats in Lansing can work together to enact budgets that are laser-focused on helping Michigan take full advantage of the unprecedented opportunity we have right now to make transformative investments in our schools that will have positive impacts for generations."

The bipartisan supplemental bill distributes over \$4 billion from the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief, or ESSER, to power schools' efforts to get our kids back on track. A total of \$841 million comes from ESSER II

funding from December 2020, while \$3.3 billion comes from ESSER III funding from President Biden's American Rescue Plan.

The ESSER funds will be distributed to districts based on their Title I, Part A allocation - which means more money will get to districts that serve students with the highest need. The funds help meet a wide range of needs arising from the coronavirus pandemic, including reopening schools safely, sustaining their safe operation, and addressing students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs resulting from the pandemic.

"Earlier this year, I appointed the Student Recovery Advisory Council to better understand our schools' needs and identify evidence-based strategies to help every student thrive after the pandemic," added Governor Whitmer. "We know this recovery isn't just about brushing up on fractions or remembering when to use the quadratic formula. Our students need a comprehensive recovery."

Today's funding represents supplemental funding for the current year budget. Legislation for the school aid budget for next fiscal year beginning October 1 is currently being reviewed.

"This is a significant budget supporting those who invest in the lives of our young people," said Rep. Brad Paquette, R-Niles.

"The bipartisan work done here is just the first step towards even more future transformational positive change within our education system."

"Throughout the pandemic, teachers and support staff have stepped up and done everything in their power to teach their students and take care of their mental health amidst unprecedented obstacles," said Rep. Regina Weiss, D-Oak Park. "My colleagues and I are proud to have partnered with the Governor on HB 4421. This bill will send billions of federal covid relief dollars directly into our schools and classrooms for PPE, support staff, academic intervention, mental health services, air quality improvements, and more. This critical support will help students across Michigan return to learn, and sets a strong foundation moving forward for what meaningful investments in education should look like."

"This federal funding is a game-changing opportunity to invest in our students and schools, from aiding learning recovery, to addressing the educator shortage, to fixing aging school infrastructure," said MEA President Paula Herbart. "This infusion of cash won't permanently solve decades of underfunding education, but in the short run it can show our communities what's possible when we properly fund our schools."

"As school leaders work with parents and stakeholders to create plans for a return to school, they will need additional resources to ensure each child can experience success. With these vital funds, recovery plans have the resources to provide the academic, physical, mental, emotional, and community support students need to thrive," said Kevin Polston, Superintendent of Kentwood Public Schools and Chair of the Student Recovery Advisory Council. "The MI Blueprint for Comprehensive Student Recovery gave Michigan's school leaders and policy makers the game plan, now they will also have the resources to get the job done. We are grateful to Governor Whitmer and the bipartisan legislators who came together to get these crucial federal recovery dollars into our schools. Now we can all get to work putting the needs of Michigan's kids first."

# Delta College Board Seeking Trustee Applicants to Fill Vacated Midland County Seat



University Center, MI – The Delta College Board of Trustees has received notification that Andre Buckley, Midland County Trustee, resigned from the Board, effective July 6, 2021.

Due to the resignation of Mr. Buckley, the Delta College Board of Trustees seeks to appoint a citizen of the Delta College district who resides in Midland County to fill a vacancy on the Board of Trustees until a successor is elected and qualified at the next regular community college election in 2022.

Qualifications required are that the person is a U.S. citizen, at least 21 years old, a Michigan resident for at least six months, and a resident of Midland County for at least 30 days. Board members serve without pay and are expected to prepare for and attend 12 regularly scheduled Board meetings each year, as well as special meetings which may be called from time to time, and to attend college events such

as commencement exercises. They are expected to abide by the Board's Bylaws and Operating Parameters, which may be accessed at [delta.edu/board-of-trustees/index.html](http://delta.edu/board-of-trustees/index.html) or requested from the Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

Interested persons should send a cover letter, resume, and responses to the following questions to Andrea Ursuy, Secretary to the Board of Trustees ([alnadols@delta.edu](mailto:alnadols@delta.edu)), by Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 12:00 pm.

- Why are you interested in being a Delta College Trustee?
- What is the role of community colleges in higher education? What is your vision for Delta College?
- What is your understanding of the Trustees' role vs. the institution's role for matters such as handling complaints about the college or its staff or students?
- We may meet other candidates for this important position who, on paper, appear more qualified than you. Why should we choose you?
  - What are your strengths and talents?
  - What would others say about your capabilities and talents?
- If appointed, would you seek election in the November 2022 election?

The Delta College Board of Trustees welcomes applicants from diverse backgrounds for this vacancy.

Delta College is one of the top community colleges in the country. We are known for innovation, community leadership, teaching excellence and for graduates who make a difference in our communities. For more information about Delta College visit [delta.edu](http://delta.edu).

## CMU announces vaccine incentive program for students

Mount Pleasant, MI – In an effort to increase the number of students receiving COVID-19 vaccines, Central Michigan University launched a vaccine incentive program with prizes including four scholarships equivalent to a full year of tuition and hundreds of gift cards.

Students who have completed a full vaccine protocol – one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine or two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine – may register online to enter the incentive program. And, while they can enter only once, students are eligible for every drawing held after they register.

"The earlier a student registers, they more chances they have to win prizes," said Jennifer DeHaemers, CMU's vice president for student recruitment and retention.

CMU will choose 101 winners during each of four scheduled drawings. Winners will be announced Aug. 2 and 23, Sept. 13,

and Oct. 4. In each drawing, 100 students will receive a \$75 gift card, and one student will win a full-tuition scholarship. All participants will also receive a 20% discount at the CMU Bookstore, DeHaemers said.

The scholarship will be equivalent to the value of 15 domestic credit hours for undergraduate students or up to nine domestic credit hours for graduate students, per semester, for the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters. International students and College of Medicine students also may enter, and both main campus and Global Campus students are eligible to receive prizes.

Winners will be notified through their [cmich.edu](http://cmich.edu) email.

Nationwide, only about 34% of college-aged individuals have been vaccinated. Last month, CMU President Bob Davies announced that CMU has joined the COVID-19 College Vaccine Challenge, a national effort to increase vaccination rates

among young people.

DeHaemers said CMU's vaccine incentive program aligns with the university's commitment to the challenge and will ensure everyone can enjoy a robust and engaging fall semester.

"To protect our campus and community from the spread of COVID-19 and its variants, we want to strongly encourage students to receive the vaccine before classes begin this fall," she said.

Students wishing to receive their COVID-19 vaccine can make an appointment through CMU Health by calling (989) 774-6599. Students outside the Mount Pleasant area may visit Vaccine Finder or Michigan's COVID-19 vaccine page to find a vaccination site near their home.

Information about the vaccine incentive program, including full rules and entry form, is available for students on the program webpage.



Sabrina Beeman-Jackson

Saginaw ISD Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director

### About Saginaw ISD HE/EHS

Established in 1965, Head Start promotes school readiness for children, ages three to five, in low-income families by offering educational, nutritional, health, social and other services.

Head Start programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families.

Early Head Start, launched in 1995, provides support to low-income infants, toddlers,

pregnant women and their families.

EHS programs enhance children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development; assist pregnant women to access comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care; support parents' efforts to fulfill their parental roles; and help parents move toward self-sufficiency.

Together Head Start and Early Head Start have served tens of millions of children and their families.

At Saginaw ISD Head Start our attentive staff is available Monday through Friday to answer all your questions and make every effort to ensure you are 100 percent satisfied.

Saginaw ISD Head Start  
Claytor Administrative Building  
3200 Perkins Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
Phone 989.752.2193  
Fax 989.921.7146

Office Hours  
Monday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
Tuesday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
Wednesday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
Thursday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
Friday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
Saturday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM  
Sunday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM

For additional information concerning Saginaw ISD Head Start visit: [www.saginawheadstart.org](http://www.saginawheadstart.org)

Source: [www.saginawheadstart.org](http://www.saginawheadstart.org)

**“Head Start graduates are more likely to graduate from high school and less likely to need special education, repeat a grade, or commit crimes in adolescence.”**

**Joe Baca, former Dem. Calif. Congrmn., Dist. 43.**

**“Our mission is to provide high quality services, developing school readiness and family empowerment for prenatal to age five children and families by working in partnership with parents and the community.”**  
**-Saginaw ISD HE/EHS**

## + BUSINESS



DUPERON CORPORATION'S NEW LOGO

# Michigan manufacturer unveils refreshed brand and expanded portfolio

## Duperon Corporation overcomes challenges of the unknown by focusing on internal improvements

Saginaw, MI – Duperon Corporation, leader in innovative preliminary liquids/solids separation systems, announced the launch of a brand refresh that reflects its commitment to continuously evolve as an innovative solutions provider for the wastewater industry and its ongoing promise to serving customers' needs.

Last year was challenging for everyone, but Duperon met those challenges head-on and feels it was able to turn a difficult time into one of positive change, energizing its employees, customers, and channel partners. Tammy Bernier, CEO, said Duperon's success during 2020 is the result of a company culture that they work very hard to maintain. "Our company culture revolves around a mutual respect for one another, and our ability to collaborate to create success is a priority. During the pandemic we supported one another and came together to get through a challenging year, and we grew stronger as a team. We successfully added three new products to our product line and underwent a brand refresh. Our team did not allow a challenging year to stifle its creativity or create obstacles that prevented productivity.

They met each challenge and proved that a united team can achieve whatever it sets its minds to, even during unprecedented times."

Duperon has recently launched three products that are effective solutions to current issues facing the water and wastewater industry. The FlexRake® IQ™ and The FlexRake® IQ2™ are the next generation of the original gold-standard FlexRake technology. Both new screens have been created with a new level of resilience to accommodate current and future challenging plant conditions. The FlexRake IQ2 includes a real-time automated response feature that optimizes the screen field to respond to changing site conditions. The Dual Auger System™ (DAS) is a low-maintenance, fully submersible system that captures and removes flushable wipes and other pump-fouling debris at the point of entry before they can impact downstream equipment. The DAS drastically reduces clogged pumps, and its compact design makes it ideal for manhole applications.

As part of their brand refresh, Duperon has completely rebuilt and redesigned their website. The new site features easy-

to-navigate pages and updated, simplified messaging that more closely resembles the simple, straightforward and creative character of the company. The visual design showcases all of the Duperon product lines that can be searched via industry or capability, while the layout is structured to provide a seamless user experience. The website reinforces the new look and feel and follows Duperon's tradition of ease of use to provide an interactive, solution-based experience with better navigation and mobile use.

According to Mark Turpin, president of Duperon Corporation, "Our brand refresh creates space for all of the new products we are developing and the markets we are entering. It is in alignment with who we have always been as a company and our commitment to providing innovative, simple and efficient solutions for our industry. We will continue to serve our customers and partners and design solutions to meet the evolving challenges of the industry. As a company, we are proud to be a supporter and in service with the water heroes who work hard to ensure clean water for the world."



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# Financial Plus Credit Union and Wanigas Credit Union exploring strategic partnership

Saginaw, MI – The Boards of Directors for Wanigas Credit Union of Saginaw and Financial Plus Credit Union of Flint announced they have mutually agreed to pursue a possible merger, contingent upon a successful exploration and integration review, a favorable membership vote, and regulatory approval. The combined credit union would have over \$1.1 billion in assets, eleven branch locations, and approximately 80,000 members.

"We are excited about a partnership with Wanigas Credit Union. Through our combined resources and unified membership, we will be in a position to further enhance our digital service strategy and increase our product depth, delivering an even more seamless member experience. This opportunity aligns with our core values and vision to provide a wide vari-

ety of financial options to our members across the state for any reason, anytime, anywhere," remarked Barney Hennessy, Board Chairperson of Financial Plus Credit Union.

"Our membership and surrounding communities will thrive as a result of this partnership. We are excited to provide increased member access, benefits, and employee growth opportunities, all while remaining a strong and healthy credit union. It was most important for us to join forces with a local credit union like Financial Plus, which shares our same core values," said Michael Balls, Board Chairperson of Wanigas Credit Union.

Current Financial Plus Credit Union CEO, Brad Bergmooser, will lead the credit union with the help of the Senior Management Team from both credit unions.

The current CEO of Wanigas Credit Union, Bernie Williams, will join the combined credit union as a member of the Senior Management Team. All employees of both organizations will continue to be employed by the combined organization.



## New initiative aims to keep local manufacturers competitive

Flint, MI – The Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance – in partnership with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), its fellow economic development partners in the I-69 Thumb Region, Automation Alley and the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center – is kicking off a new initiative that aims to make area manufacturers more competitive through the adoption of Internet-based technologies.

"Embracing Industry 4.0 will be a key factor in determining which companies are successful in the future," said Tyler Rossmassler, executive director of Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance, one of the seven partners in the I-69 Thumb Region. "Our goal is to ensure that local manufacturers have a competitive advantage by providing them with resources that will increase their understanding around these technologies and motivate them to implement these technologies in their workplace. In doing so, they will see the benefits of improved efficiencies, increased

production and lower costs."

According to Rossmassler, examples of Industry 4.0 technologies include artificial intelligence, 3D printing, robotics, augmented and virtual reality, the Cloud and cybersecurity.

The year-long I-69 Thumb Region Industry 4.0 Initiative begins this week with a short survey for manufacturers in the I-69 Thumb Region, which covers Genesee, Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, Shiawassee, St. Clair and Tuscola counties. The initiative will also involve additional activities, demonstration events and outreach that will occur throughout the year. The effort will provide engaged companies with the opportunity for training grant funding for new employees and upskilling existing employees on Industry 4.0 technologies.

Additionally, the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center is currently conducting assessments of Industry 4.0 readiness with area manufacturers and also will be collaborating with I-69 Thumb Region partners on the project.

This regional initiative falls under the umbrella of the broader MEDC Industry 4.0 initiative, which aims to drive 4.0 readiness in small and mid-sized manufacturers statewide and ensure that 50 percent of Michigan manufacturers are prepared to adopt Industry 4.0 technologies at some level by 2025. To meet its objectives, the MEDC awarded 10 grants to non-profit organizations and educational institutions in Michigan in order to meet its objectives. This included a grant to the I-69 Thumb Region, which was awarded \$138,000.

In addition to the Flint & Genesee Economic Alliance, the I-69 Thumb Region partnership includes the Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County which will manage the project and serve as fiduciary; Huron County Economic Development Corporation; Lapeer Development Corporation; Sanilac Economic Development Corporation; Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership; and Tuscola Economic Development Corporation.

# PARTNERS IN GROWTH

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## + FUNDRAISING GOODTIMES

# Is money the only measure of success?

By MEL AND PEARL SHAW

*“If all I’m measured on is money, this is not the job for me.” These are the words shared with us by a nonprofit professional with years of fundraising experience. But the organization he works for measures him on how much money he brings in, not on any of the other aspects of fund development and fundraising. What do you think? Is money the only measure of success? How do you measure fundraising success?*

Here’s what we know and what we teach, based on our experience: fundraising is a team sport, it is a philanthropic activity, not sales. Yes, nonprofits depend on gifts, grants, donations, sponsorships, and fees. But funds raised – money in the door – is only one measure of fundraising success. Sustained fundraising depends on planning; planning is the work of fund development; and fund development drives sustainable fundraising.

There’s a dual focus that needs to be sustained: securing funds for current operations and stewarding gifts and building relationships. In pursuing that dual focus, the measure of success extends beyond money. Here is a list of the types of activities that staff, board members, and volunteers can prioritize alongside fundraising. We ask that you consider these and discuss them amongst the leadership at your nonprofit or HBCU. Which can you prioritize now, or in the future? How will you measure progress against these?

**Leadership development.** A strong and active board should be at the core of an organization’s fundraising. This should be combined with an executive director who spends the majority of her time focused on fundraising and fund development. Look also for fund development staff that are experienced and have the skills to execute. These three components of leadership should be nurtured consistently.

**Case for support.** Can you talk with others about what you are raising money for? Can you communicate your anticipated impact and how funds will be used? Your case should be rooted in your mission, values and strategic plan.

**A strong annual fundraising campaign.** Look closely at where your money comes from each year, at who has “lapsed” in their giving, and at how you are attracting and retaining new donors. It is not unusual to have a 20% to 40% attrition rate year-over-year. That means you need to always be engaged in attracting new donors and sustaining relationships with current and lapsed donors. Look to secure the majority of funds from individuals and engage volunteers as fundraisers.

**Donor cultivation and stewardship.** These are at the heart of fundraising: you want to build your circle of supporters, donors, advocates, and fundraisers. This takes time. And it’s worth it. Yes, you want

to employ technology, but you want to use it to facilitate relationships. Those employed by a nonprofit and who govern as board members are stewards working on behalf of others. Spend time building the circle of those who provide financial and nonfinancial support.

Fundraising is about growing philanthropy, about encouraging others to give now and beyond. Let’s measure the multiple actions required to sustain our organizations.



COURTESY PHOTO



Copyright 2021 – Mel and Pearl Shaw

Mel and Pearl Shaw are authors of four books on fundraising available on Amazon.com. For help growing your fundraising visit [www.saadandshaw.com](http://www.saadandshaw.com) or call (901) 522-8727.

# + CHURCH DIRECTORY

**B**



**Bethel AME Church**  
Rev. Dennis Laffoon  
535 Cathay St.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-7011



**Bethlehem Temple Church of the Apostolic Faith**  
District Elder Curtis E. Johnson, Pastor  
3521 Webber St  
Saginaw, Michigan 48601  
989-755-8381



**Bread of Life Harvest Center**  
Senior Pastor Rodney J. McTaggart  
3726 Fortune Blvd.  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
989-790-7933

**C**

**Christ Disciples Baptist Church**  
Founder Pastor Eddie Benson  
Pastor Genevieve Benson  
3317 Lapeer Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-2444

**Christ Fellowship Baptist Church**  
Rev. Robert Davis, Jr.  
818 N. Washington Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-4435  
PastorD818@gmail.com



**Christ Image Community Church**  
5501 Gratiot Rd  
Saginaw, MI 48638  
(989) 759-9161  
christimage.us

**F**



**Faith Harvest Church**  
Bishop Ronald E. Chipp  
1734 N. Mason  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
989-799-4200  
faithharvestministry.org  
office@faithharvestministry.org



**Faith Ministries Church**  
Dr. Anthony Revis  
3420 E Ashman St.  
Midland, MI 48642  
989-837-7777  
faithministrieschurch.org

**G**



**Glimpse Of Hope Ministries**  
Pastor Leslie D Lewis  
2211 S. Outer Dr.  
Saginaw Michigan 48601  
989-755-9237  
g.ministries@aol.com

**Grace Chapel Church**  
Pastor James Nelson  
2202 Janes Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-3212



**Greater Renaissance**  
Pastor Cedric R. Cheatham  
1535 S. Warren Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-1455  
260-515-6456

**Greater Williams Temple**  
608 E Remington St  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-5291

**J**



**Jacob's Ladder**  
Bishop Elect Dempsey Allen  
1926 Fairfield Street  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
989-799-6601

**L**

**Life in Christ Ministries**  
Pastor Dennis Cotton, Sr.  
2915 S. Washington Road  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-401-4465  
LifeInChristMinistries07@gmail.com

**M**

**Messiah Missionary Baptist Church**  
Pastor Otis Washington  
2615 Williamson Road  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-777-2636  
Fax: 989-777-2640  
messiahmbc@att.net  
messiahsag.org



**Mt. Olive Baptist Church**  
Pastor Marvin T. Smith  
1114 N. 6th Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-8064

**N**



**New Beginnings Deliverance Ministry**  
Pastor Roy & Evelyn Baldwin  
2609 E. Genesee  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-777-8272  
Pastorbaldwin@charter.net

**New Beginnings Life Changing Ministries**  
Pastor Otis Dickens  
2312 S. Washington Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-755-3650



**New Birth Missionary Baptist**  
Pastor Larry D. Camel  
3121 Sheridan  
Saginaw, Michigan  
989-327-1755



**New Covenant Christian Center**  
Pastor Ron Frierson  
2395 S. Outer Drive  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-8485



**New Hope Missionary Baptist Church**  
Rev. Dr. Willie F. Casey  
1721 Tuscola Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-753-7600



**New Life Baptist Ministries**  
Dr. Craig Tatum  
1401 Janes Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-753-1151  
newlifelcm.com

**New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church**  
Pastor Alfred "AJ" Harris Jr.  
3610 Russel St.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-0801

**New Way Ministries**  
Pastor Dwight & Princess Dobbins  
29200 Shiawassee St.  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336  
(248) 987-2434  
thenewwayministry.org

**P**

**Prince of Peace Baptist Church**  
Pastor Robert C. Corley Jr.  
825 North 24th Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-2841

**R**



**Resurrection Life Ministries Full Gospel Baptist Church**  
Pastor Carolyn L. Wilkins  
2320 Sheridan Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-395-3142

**S**



**Saginaw Valley Community Church**  
Pastor Richard Sayad  
3660 Hermansau  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
989-752-4769



**Saint Paul Baptist Church**  
Rev. Dr., Vincent D. McMillon  
120 North 15 St.  
Saginaw, MI. 48601  
stpaul2@yahoo.com  
Facebook: St Paul MBC Family Connection



**Second Baptist Church**  
Pastor-Elect Marcelle T. Smith  
1770 W. Youngs Ditch Rd.  
Bay City, MI 48708  
989-893-8631

**St. John Ev. Lutheran Church**  
Pastor Carl Ballard  
915 Federal Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
989-754-0489  
stjohnlutheranelcasaginaw.weebly.com

**T**



**Transforming Life Ministries**  
Pastor William Brown  
523 Hayden  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-754-9573



**True Vine Baptist Church**  
Pastor Paul E. Broaddus  
2930 Janes Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-752-0751

**U**



**United Missionary Baptist Church**  
Rev. Cedric Nickson  
4290 Lamson Street  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
Church: 989-759-9411  
Pastor 810.223.2987

**V**



**Victorious Belivers Ministries Church**  
Pastor Chris V. Pryor  
624 S. Outer Dr.  
Saginaw, MI  
989-755-7692

**W**



**World Outreach Campus of Greater Coleman Temple Ministries**  
Supt. H.J. Coleman Jr.  
2405 Bay Rd.  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
989-752-7957

**Z**



**Zion Missionary Baptist Church**  
Pastor Rodrick Smith  
721 Johnson  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
989-754-9621

# + SPORTS

## Are too many three-pointers bad for the game?

By MIKE THOMPSON

The Milwaukee Bucks are chucking, and the Phoenix Suns are gunning.

When our July 16 Michigan Banner went online, we didn't know which team would win the NBA Finals.

All we knew was that each team was firing up about 40 three-point longballs per game. This is compared to only four per team when the three-point arc was adopted, mostly during the 1970s.

That's no small change. It's more like an earthquake. A number of hoopsters among us say it's a change for the worse.

At the start, only the good shooters launched triple tries. But then the analysts started figuring out the math. To shoot 33.3 percent on threes produces the same number of points as 50 percent on old-time two-point shots.

So now everyone is bombing, even the lousy marksmen.

A 15-foot midrange jumper? Only two points. Bad math, bad odds.

An old-school hook shot by a big player in the low post at the side of the bucket? Same deal. Bad odds.

Therefore, during recent weeks, we solicited viewpoints from some Saginaw County Sports Hall of Famers. Limited space allows only a small sampling of their accomplishments.

Check out our matchups:

\*\*\*\*\*



**Ernie Thompson**, Saginaw High 1962, led the undefeated Trojans to a state title with a record 42 points in the championship game. He became a standout at Bradley University.

He says:

"Steph Curry is the one who changed

the parameters of the game a whole lot. The three-point shot can be innovative, and it gives all the

players a fair chance, no matter what size they are. It's more equitable, I think."

Ernie's taller local rival was **Craig Dill**, Arthur Hill, 1963, who went on to play for U-M and then in the renegade ABA, the first league with a three-point arc and a red-white-blue ball.



Craig offers a different view:

"In the inaugural season of the ABA we had best team and best player (The champion Pittsburgh Pipers and Connie Hawkins.) The three-point shot

was not a factor. Nowadays, early entry into NBA leaves kids with no fundamental skills. Coaches don't feature or teach low-post offense at any level. Sadly the three-pointer is here to stay, fans love it and the longball can change momentum of a game in a blink. Just like adding the shot clock during the 1950s."

\*\*\*\*\*

Moving ahead a generation, **Marshall Thomas**, Saginaw High 1966, went on Western New Mexico, and returned home to become a legendary coach and educator.



He says:

"I am actually trying to stay out of this debate about the three-point shot. I believe

that there are other rules and/or acceptances about today's game that should be added to the discussion. Some of those are ball handling (palming), euro-step (traveling) and defensive rules (touch fouls).

"The new rules or allowances are to promote what fans (paying society) want to see (being entertained with more scoring)! This isn't the same game as was played 30-40 years ago. It is in name only.

"I don't try to judge today's game or players in comparison to yesterday's game or players. The individuals in charge are giving the general public what it wants."



**George Ku-biak**, Carrollton High 1970, was an all-starter who advanced to CMU, then made his career as a Saginaw elementary phys-ed teacher and coach at Arthur Hill. His view differs from Coach Thomas:

"Basketball has evolved into a game of the three-point shot. The players are not defined by position any more. A point guard's duties were to guide the team by starting the offense, taking most of the dribbling responsibilities, setting up his teammates for the best shot possible. Now the point guard is doing much more, rebounding, taking it to the hoop. And they must knock down the three ball!

"It's a trade-off. Players' measurements are changing. Everyone in the pros seems to be 6-foot-8. They all have one thing in common, they are absolute physical specimens. A good example is Kevin Durant, 7-foot tall with point guard skills.

**CONTINUES ON PG 47, THREE-POINTERS**

+ SPORTS

# Continued from pg 46, three-pointers

"Players today are not defined by position any more, but by skill level. The game has evolved today around the skill of knocking down the three. Some players are great at it. Some are decent, and some shouldn't be even shooting it! "Think of when they made the rule that dunking was not allowed. Players evolved and worked on their games to get points around the basket. Kareem Abdul Jabber developed the most unstoppable shot in basketball, the sky hook.

"You're never out of the game with the three! It does bring excitement to the game. LET IT FLY!!!!"

\*\*\*\*\*

For a while, the women's game provided an alternative with far fewer three-pointers. But more and more, the females are firing up treys as well.



**Vonnie DeLong**, Carrollton High 1982, was Vonnie Thompson when she led the Lady Cavs to three state crowns. She played college ball at Notre Dame, and coached at SVSU, Arthur Hill and Heritage High.

Vonnie says:

"As a coach, it's not a matter of too many three-point shots. If you have a good three-point shooting team, those

are the shots you should be taking. But it shouldn't be one size fits all. Who are your best three-point shooters, the ones who should be taking those shots?

"As a fan, I'm not going to look at the rule or at the three-point line, but more at the coach. If the team is shooting too many three-pointers, what is the coach doing about it?

"Also, at least in high school, there is a difference between the boys' side and the girls' side. Most boys will be strong enough to shoot a three as a jump shot, but with some girls, the maximum distance might be about 12 feet."

**Erinn Reed**, Saginaw High 1992, was a lefty scoring machine like her dad, Coach Norwaine Reed.. She played at Iowa and then mainly at Kansas.



Erinn says:

"I see players choosing one extreme or another. Either they pull up for a three or they drive all the way to the basket and wind up with defenders all over them. Where is the mid-range game? I see a lack of teaching for players to adapt to certain situations. to take what the defense gives them instead of setting their minds in advance."

\*\*\*\*\*

Ernie Thompson was inducted into the

Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame in 2002, Craig Dill in 2003, Vonnie DeLong in 2010, Marshall Thomas in 2012, Erin Reed in 2017 and George Kubiak in 2020.

A final word goes to **Jack Tany**, St. Mary's 1975, who helped us bring these viewpoints together as the founding director of the Sports Hall, located for public viewing in the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History.



Jack opines:

"I've never cared for the trey because it changed the game so much. I guess I'm old school basketball and grew up watching the big man dominate the middle. Stellar battles like Wes Unseld and Willis Reed, Bill Russell and Wilt Chamberlain and Nate Thurmond.

"A point guard would work the ball in and all the frontcourt players would crash the basket. Today, half of them hover around the arc desperately waiting for the ball to swing around to them.

"Pete Maravich scored over 3,600 points in three seasons at LSU, all without the three-point line. He created his own shots. The three-point shot took all the creativity out of the game."

*(Your thoughts? Send them to [mwt-saginaw@yahoo.com](mailto:mwt-saginaw@yahoo.com). The Michigan Banner seeks viewpoints on many subjects, including sports.)*



# MICHIGAN YOUTH BANNER

VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 14

## Teen artist's eye on a prize is below the Court Street Bridge



NEASIA HOPKINS

By MIKE THOMPSON

NeAsia Hopkins is Saginaw's latest national ACT-SO champion, and "Science" was the main focus when she started at the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy.

So how did she wind up with a gold medal in "visual arts/drawing?"

"When I started high school, I was looking to become an engineer, figuring the money would be good," recalls the co-graduate in June from both SASA and from Saginaw High School, "but as I grew older, was that something I'd really want to do? I ended up switching my concentration to art before I started high school."

Her entry in the NAACP's Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics is a 3-D collage of the Court Street Bridge's west underside, a warm weather gathering spot where she sometimes engages with young artisan friends.

She used patterned paper, solid paper and images of maps that she transferred using packaging tape to create her award winning piece.

Her mural is named "Justice > Charity," and at the same time, she believes pursuing her passion for art will prove greater than any startup six-figure income in engineering.

"It's about how you apply the art," Neasia says. "I have to take a different approach."

In that regard, one challenge is to make social statements without seeming partisan in the back-and-forth in today's politics. She used the bridge to symbolize the division between those who possess economic opportunities and those entrapped in poverty.

"I didn't want it to be seen as an external opinion," she says, "I want to challenge people to think beyond now and recognize

that there's a lot wrong with our society that we just accept."

She soon will hit southbound I-75 enroute to Detroit's College for Creative Studies, a school with representatives who have maintained links with SASA.

"This should make me more adjusted than a typical student who may arrive with no information on the professors or on campus life," she says.

NeAsia thanks her many "professor" teachers from SASA, including one, Sally Giroux, who helped her to fully discover her 3-D potential.

"She taught me, know your 'why.' Whatever you believe, go for it." NeAsia explains.

Her ACT-SO prize is a personal computer and \$2,000 in college expense funds.

**CONTINUES ON PG 49, NEASIA HOPKINS**



## Continued from pg 48, NeAsia Hopkins

She began saving with a pair of part-time jobs. One was preparing displays in the colorful children's section at Butman-Fish Library. Another has been at U Me Paint Experience, 316 South Hamilton a quarter mile from her Court Street Bridge scene, where she guides patrons through their do-it-yourself art creations. These will give her unique teen experiences if teaching becomes part of her career. She also contributed to the downtown mural at Washington and Genesee.

Saginaw's long-time record of ACT-SO success under mentor John Pugh is among the nation's best, rivaling even the big cities. In the arts, the most notable local gold medalist is gospel singer Jessica Reedy (Saginaw High Class of 2006), who remained home until national BET acclaim and recording contracts took her onto the road.

NeAsia says, "Some people tell me that there's nothing in Saginaw, no reason to stay here, but they don't see our potential. I think Saginaw is a great place for me to start, and we can head downhill if people will give their time and their money."



NEASIA HOPKIN'S AWARD WINNING PIECE, "JUSTICE > CHARITY"



**T**hree Saginaw ACT-SO local gold medal champions joined NeAsia Hopkins in national NAACP competition. They received honorable mentions and \$400 apiece in college scholarship funds.

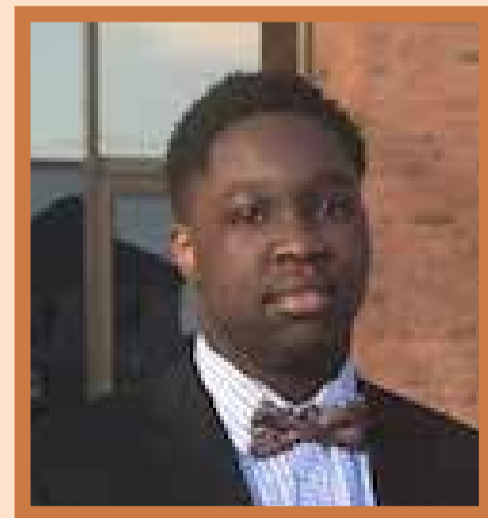
They are Destiney Keller of Saginaw High (Saginaw Valley State University) in contemporary vocal music, Isaiah Crawford of SASA (University of Michigan) in drawing and dramatic acting, and Lionel Baldwin of Arthur Hill High (college undecided) in contemporary instrumental music.



**Destiney Keller**



**Isaiah Crawford**



**Lionel Baldwin**



## PICS OF THE WEEK

On July 13, 2021, Saginaw African American Pastors receive recognition from State Representative Amos O'Neal

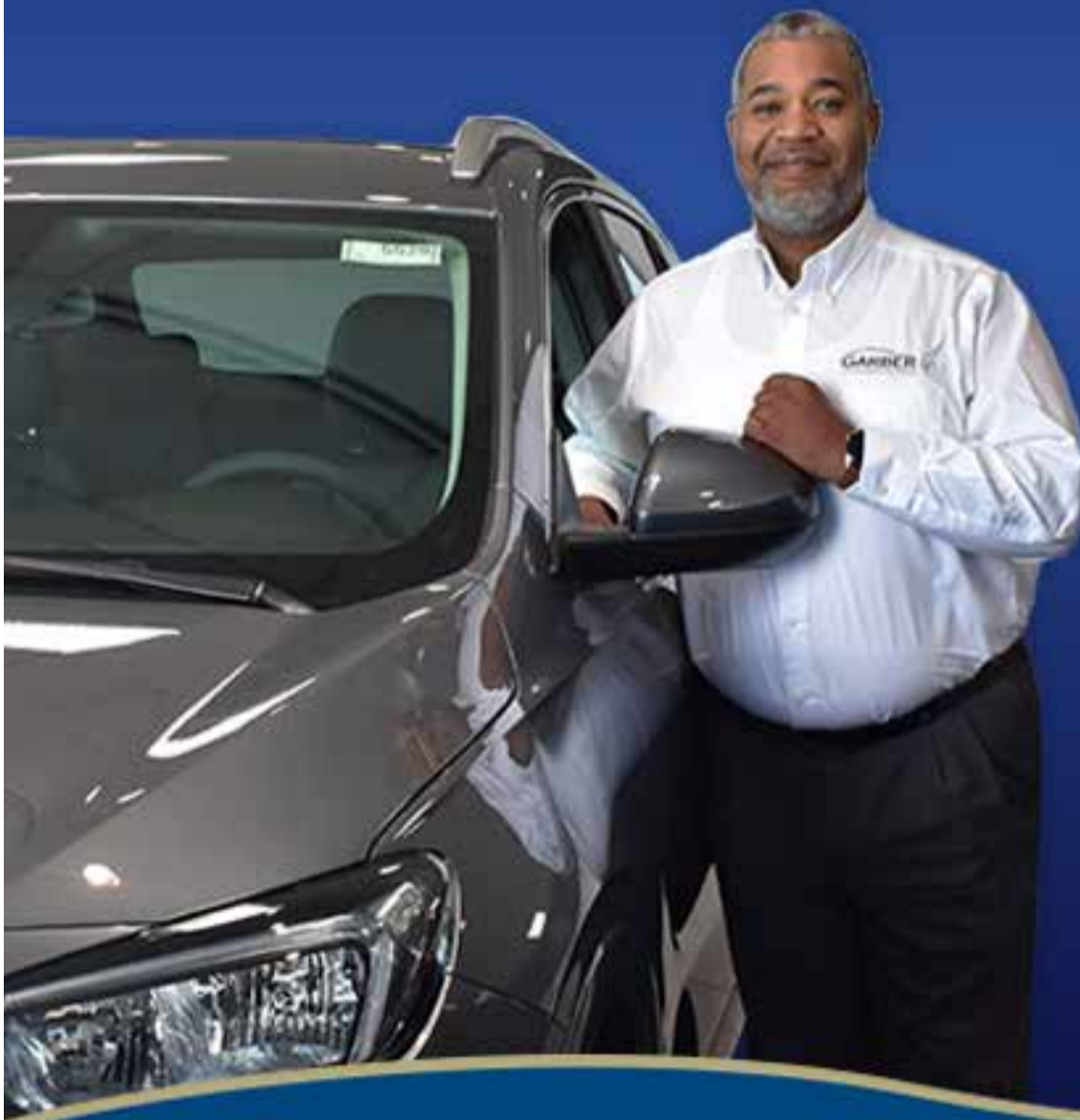


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**We**

*imagine.*

*Whatever your dreams, whatever your goals, your professors and friends at SVSU will fly with you every step of the way.*

Since age 11, India Pernell has had a passion for expressing herself through writing. Yet, when she first enrolled in college, choosing a major proved to be elusive for the Oak Park native. "I was 'major hopping' until it finally occurred to me that I always enjoyed writing and that I was good at it." Now a published author, Pernell has her sights on a career in grant writing, publishing or the film industry. In fact, she has nearly completed writing a movie script. **Her confidence is nurtured by her positive attitude and accomplishments at SVSU.**



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